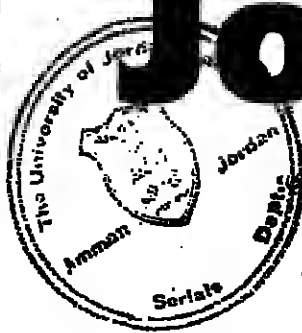


U.N. envoy meets Afghan officials

ISLAMABAD (R) — A U.N. mediator on a mission to break a deadlock on talks to settle the Afghan conflict met with officials in the Afghan capital on Tuesday, the official Kabul Radio reported. The radio, monitored here, said U.N. Under-Secretary-General Diego Cordovez met Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost twice on the second day of his visit to Kabul. Mr. Cordovez arrived in Kabul on Tuesday after three days of talks in Islamabad. The radio gave no details of the talks which are aimed at reconciling differences over the format of future talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at the withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Indirect talks began in Geneva in 1982. Kabul has insisted on direct talks but Islamabad, which does not recognise the Soviet-backed government of President Bahrak Karmal, wants the indirect talks to continue.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Papal envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A special envoy of Pope John Paul arrived in Damascus from Beirut on Tuesday to explore with Syrian officials ways of ending Lebanon's sectarian crisis and 11-year-old civil war. Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, secretary of the Vatican's Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, was greeted by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a but made no airport statement. He was expected to meet President Hafez Al Assad as well as visiting former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh. Political sources said the Papal envoy sought to bring together Lebanese factions pro- and anti-Syrian-backed peace plan signed in Damascus last December. In Beirut on Monday, Mr. Silvestrini met separately with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The peace accord calls for trimming the powers of the Christian-held presidency and giving the Muslim majority more say in government.

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King visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Tuesday visited the Army Headquarters, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The King conferred with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Attending the meeting also were Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Bomb explodes in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded at a bus stop on a suburban Tel Aviv shopping street on Tuesday wounding one woman, police said. The bomb was hidden in a garbage can at the bus stop in the town of Ramat Gan, police said. A bomb which exploded by a Ramat Gan bus stop in February wounded three people. Ten days later another bomb exploded on a bus near Ramat Gan and wounded six people.

Israeli soldiers kill Arab in Balata

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian at a refugee camp on the occupied West Bank on Monday after he allegedly ignored an order to stop, a military spokesman said. Soldiers reported finding a knife on the body and another boy fled, dropping a can of petrol, matches and rags, the spokesman said. The incident occurred at the Balata refugee camp.

Israel rejects Gouling's plea

TEL AVIV (AP) — United Nations envoy Marrack Gouling renewed an appeal to Israeli leaders Tuesday to allow U.N. peacekeepers to deploy along the Israel-Lebanon border, but Israeli officials rejected the idea of an expanded U.N. role. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Director General David Kimche said Israel could not accept the nine-october, 5,500-member U.N. force as a substitute for Israel's self-styled "security zone" manned by Israeli soldiers and Lebanese militiamen, Israeli officials said.

S. Yemeni envoy arrives in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday for the first official talks between the two countries since the overthrow of former President Ali Nasser Mohammed. Diplomatic sources said the visit was part of efforts by the new South Yemeni government to improve relations with other Arabian Peninsula states strained after bloody fighting overthrew Nasser Mohammed in January. Mr. Dali arrived in Sharjah and would see officials there before travelling to Abu Dhabi, they said.

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Jordan will not supplant PLO or act on behalf of Palestinians — King

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed on Tuesday that Jordan will not act on behalf of the Palestinian people and will not substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Jordan is not and will never be an agent for the Palestinian people," the King said in his inauguration speech at the fourth Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting. "Jordan is not and will not act as a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the King added. He stressed these points as being "the firm principles that rule our position vis-a-vis political action towards the Palestinian cause — the nucleus of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The King also emphasised Jordan's commitment to Arab summit resolutions, especially those of the 1974 Rabat and the 1982 Fez summits. He said the Kingdom will continue playing the role of supporting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories "within its capabilities and in a way

that does not clash with (Jordan's) national security." The King told delegates from occupied Jerusalem last week that Israel's expansionist policies went beyond the occupied territories and could threaten Jordan's national security.

In his speech delivered to parliamentary delegates from 14 Arab states, the King reviewed dangers that threatened the Arab Nation and its national character. He said the APU conference is convened at a time when "the Arab Nation is passing through a real crisis in all political, economic and security domains."

The King said besides the civil strife in Lebanon and the war in the Western Sahara, there are three external threats to the Arab Nations: the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the expansionist Zionist tendencies; the Iranian aggression against Iraq,

and the separatist movement in southern Sudan.

The King pointed out to a "common denominator" between the threats which is in the three cases a country or a foreign force or both. "These countries or forces aim at the seizure of Arab lands, and in the case of the success of this seizure, to change the features of this land with the aim of separating it as is the situation in southern Sudan or to mutilate it to become a part of the aggressor country as in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights... or to contain it as an annex as the rulers of Tehran aim at achieving with their aggressive war against Iraq, and ultimately the Gulf countries."

The King said these three threats do not face a unified Arab position, and were facilitated and developed as a result of Arab divisions.

The King called on the Arab League and the APU to strive towards establishing a constructive dialogue between Arabs as a prerequisite to put an end to the Arab state of division.

He pointed out that dialogue was not negotiations. "Dialogue emanates from the realisation by a number of parties of one threat they want to counter... while negotiations come as a result of a problem between two or more parties, who agreed on solving the problem, with each party trying to achieve greater gains against the other. Thus, dialogue is based on trust, honesty and good intentions... while negotiations are based on deceit and manoeuvring," the King said.

The King said Jordan was demanding the establishment of a dialogue "so that it will not become negotiations... for none of us is one hundred per cent right as no one is one hundred per cent wrong."

The King later received the speakers and members of the Arab parliamentary delegations and wished them success in their conference.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed, who was appointed as president for the current session of the conference, delivered a speech at the outset in which he thanked the King for inaugurating the conference.

Mr. Fayed said that the conference was being convened "during one of the most critical and difficult phases in the history of our Arab Nation."

Delegates call for solutions to Arab problems, page 3



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday delivers the keynote address at the inauguration of the fourth

conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Mubarak offers to initiate new moves to revive peace process

KUWAIT (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted on Tuesday as offering to intercede with Israel and the United States on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for an ultimate peace settlement that would help the Palestinians regain their rights.

He told the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam Egypt was ready to coordinate between the PLO and Jordan with a view to getting the PLO to recognise Israel and help the Middle East peace process regain momentum.

"But I don't accept that anything be imposed on the Palestinians," Mr. Mubarak told the paper in an interview. "In fact I seriously seek to help them. In the end, all are going to sit at the same (negotiating) table, because the Palestinian question cannot possibly be solved verbally or by telephone or by correspondence."

Mr. Mubarak urged all parties directly involved in the Middle East conflict to "live reality."

"If we don't act now we might lose everything," Mr. Mubarak warned, in an obvious bid to all Arabs to come to reactivate the peace drive.

He lamented conditions of Arab disunity which, he cautioned, "are not conducive to convening a peace conference" with Israel.

He said that Egypt has successfully held contacts with the Israeli leadership and "successfully smoothed over some difficulties" toward arranging an overall peace accord.

"Israel is a state, and any contact with that state is in favour of the Arabs as a whole and not merely in our favour alone," he told Al Rai Al Aam. "We contact Israel overtly, while others (Arabs) do the same covertly."

Mr. Mubarak ridiculed unidentified Arab voices that call for eliminating Israel, asking "Who can do that? Who can afford to throw Israel into the sea... when the two superpowers guarantee its existence?"

Mr. Mubarak said that King Hussein was to visit Cairo shortly, arguing that the King "has not slammed the doors shut in the face of the PLO leadership."

Mr. Mubarak said the King "merely meant to sit with the PLO leaders for discussions and for arriving at practical and definite accord to commence negotiations."

He said the King was convinced

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Thatcher rejects Soviet plan for nuclear freeze

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher rejected a Soviet demand that Britain freeze its nuclear force as part of a three-stage plan for eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2000, the Foreign Office said Tuesday.

Mrs. Thatcher was replying to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's Jan. 15 proposal, which was also addressed to the United States and the other nuclear powers, France and China.

Mr. Gorbachev had also insisted that the United States not transfer nuclear missiles to other countries.

In her reply to Mr. Gorbachev, delivered in Moscow on Monday, Mrs. Thatcher "reiterated the unacceptability of the Soviet conditions as regards the minimum British strategic force and restated our longstanding conditions for reconsidering our contribution to arms control," the Foreign Office said.

Mr. Gorbachev had said that within the next five to eight years, "the United States should undertake not to transfer its strategic

and medium-range missiles to other countries, while Britain and France should pledge not to build up their respective nuclear arsenals" — "in effect a freeze."

Both Britain and France had already rejected such a freeze and plan to go ahead with modernisation plans. Britain plans to modernise its obsolescent Polaris submarine nuclear force with U.S. Trident missile submarines by the mid-1990's.

Mrs. Thatcher's response to Gorbachev was made after detailed consultations with the United States and other allies, and followed the general line taken by President Ronald Reagan in his Feb. 24 reply to Mr. Gorbachev.

Mrs. Thatcher, the Foreign Office said, "emphasised that the goal of a nuclear-free world was necessarily long-term and that for the foreseeable future, nuclear weapons in their deterrent role would continue to make an essential contribution to peace and stability."

Mr. Reagan had said that many

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Doctor begins lonely mission in Beirut to free Frenchmen

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese-born French doctor disappeared into Beirut's Shiite suburbs on Tuesday, beginning a lonely mission to win freedom for Frenchmen believed to be held by pro-Iranian Lebanese groups.

As concern for their safety grew, Dr. Razah Raad took a taxi from his hotel to the south of the city.

"He got out, waved me away and walked alone down the street with a small suitcase," the taxi-driver told Reuters.

Dr. Raad, 43, the only Paris envoy to have met the kidnappers in earlier visits here, cut short talks in Damascus and rushed to Beirut Monday night after the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group issued photographs said to show the body of a French hostage.

One of the black-and-white photographs showed sociologist Michel Seurat bare-chested, his eyes half-closed, but with no signs of wounds or blood. The others showed a blanket-swathed body in a coffin, and a closed coffin with a cross on the lid.

Islamic Jihad said last Wednesday it had "executed" the 38-year-old Seurat, 10 months after he was seized with journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann near Beirut airport.

Of the other hostages, French diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine were abducted almost a year ago.

The kidnaps of a four-man French television crew seized in Beirut on Saturday and six Americans over the last two years have also been claimed in the name of Islamic Jihad.

In a statement delivered with the photographs to an international news agency here, Islamic Jihad said it now held three French hostages, but denied it kidnapped the TV crew.

The conflicting claims, coming near the climax of France's parliamentary elections next Sunday (See page 2), appeared to complicate the task of French diplomats working to save the hostages.

France has sent top diplomats to Lebanon and Syria to try to resolve the crisis but Paris says Iran, which backs Shiite fundamentalists in Lebanon, refused to receive a third envoy.

Serge Boidevaix, assistant secretary-general of France's External Relations Ministry, talked with President Amin Gemayel in east Beirut, but declined to comment on the hostage crisis.

Monday night's Jihad statement said the lives of Mr. Kauffmann, Mr. Carton and Mr. Fontaine "depend on the speed with which the French government responds to our demands, which it knows precisely in detail."

Last Sunday a caller saying he spoke for the group gave France one week to "recover" two Iraqi dissidents it deported to Iraq last month.

The chief editor of Antenne-2, (Continued on page 3)

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Iraqis closing in on Fao terminal

FAO PENINSULA, Southern Iraq (R) — Iraqis occupying the old oil port of Fao fought hand-to-hand on Tuesday with Iraqi troops closing in on its outskirts, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

Southern and central columns of the three-pronged Iraqi force are trying to wrest control of the port from Iranian troops who seized parts of it a month ago at the start of a new offensive.

On Tuesday the two columns were only 50 metres apart as the Iraqis clung tenaciously to a strip of territory at Mamlaah, some five kilometres outside the port.

A group of correspondents were driven by jeep to within five kilometres of the battlefield as Iranian shells rained on either side of the road.

Iraqi return fire from artillery, tanks and rocket launchers was much heavier, sometimes averaging around a minute against Iranian lines.

In the distance, huge tongues of fire spouted skywards and palls of smoke hung over what looked like petrol tanks struck by the Iraqi shells.

An Iraqi major accompanying the journalists said the fighting at Mamlaah was "a dogfight" with hand-to-hand combat across a narrow stretch of Iranian-held territory separating the Iraqi columns.

Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, head of the armed forces political department, said: "Both columns have already merged into one force... only 50 metres keeps them apart at Mamlaah."

The two Iraqi columns have advanced about nine kilometres towards Fao over the past three days and military observers said occupation of Mamlaah in sub-beds overlooking the port would be a significant breakthrough.

"It would give the Iraqis a springboard to bring their tanks into battle, onto drier land more suitable for a tank advance," one said.

Muddy terrain and rain have hampered the tank force until now.

Mr. Mohsen said the Iranian force of about four divisions defending Fao was now in a critical situation. Eleven divisions had been wiped out in fierce fighting since they crossed the Shatt Al Arab waterway into Iraq on Feb. 9, he said.

"They have no hope now. If they stay in Fao, they will just be targets for our artillery, rockets and air force," he added.

(Continued on page 3)

Soviets lodge protest over U.S. order for staff cut

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry on Tuesday delivered a "resolute protest" against the United States' "illegitimate demand" that the Soviet Union reduce its United Nations staff.

The verbal protest, a text of which was carried by the official news agency TASS, also denied that Soviet employees of the United Nations engage in espionage.

The U.S. government on Friday ordered the Soviet Union to cut its U.N. staff from 275 to 170 by April 1, 1988. The order claimed the current personnel level is unreasonably high and that some Soviet staff assigned to U.N. offices have been involved in spying.

The Soviet side has turned down as utterly far-fetched and unfounded the assertions that the staff of the permanent mission of the USSR at the United Nations allegedly engage in activities which have no bearing on U.N. work.

TASS said.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said Charge d'Affaires Richard Combs Jr. was summoned to the Soviet

Foreign Ministry Tuesday morning to receive the protest.

The Foreign Ministry stated "the Soviet side certainly cannot pass over such unjustified actions of the USA and will have to draw relevant conclusions for itself."

It declared that all responsibility for the consequences of the U.S. order will be on the American side.

The statement warned the U.S. administration that it should realise "such actions increase distrust of its policy and do not create conditions for a summit."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev agreed at their meeting in Geneva in November to hold a second summit this year in Washington.

But Soviet officials, including Mr. Gorbachev, have said they want to see progress on arms control before a date for the next meeting is set.

"It should be clear that such acts cannot fail to affect the relations (Continued on page 3)

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"It should be clear that such acts cannot fail to affect the relations (Continued on page 3)

Kohl faces new legal probe

BONN (AP) — Bonn prosecutors said on Tuesday they were opening an investigation to determine if Chancellor Helmut Kohl lied during a probe of alleged illegal political contributions.

It is the second prosecutor's investigation opened against the Christian Democrat leader in a little more than two weeks.

On Feb. 24, a prosecutor in Rhineland-Pfalz state announced he was opening a probe to determine whether Dr. Kohl lied to a legislative committee also investigating alleged illegal political contributions.

Johannes Wilhelm, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, told the Associated Press that the investigation will begin on Thursday.

He said that Philipp Jenninger, the president of the lower house of parliament, had already been informed of the probe.

By law, prosecutors must inform the Bundestag president of their intent to investigate the chancellor before such action can be opened.

The investigation stems from testimony given in what is known as the Flick Affair, West Germany's largest-ever corporate bribery scandal.

Dr. Kohl in 1984 testified before the parliamentary committee investigating donations Flick gave to leading political parties. Bonn prosecutors will attempt to determine whether Dr. Kohl lied to the committee, according to Mr. Wilhelm.

The Bonn and Rhineland-Pfalz investigations stem from complaints filed by Greens Party Member of Parliament Otto Schilly.

Dr. Kohl in November 1984 testified before the parliamentary committee probing Flick company donations. Dr. Kohl acknowledged receiving some money from Flick, but said that all the money he received was turned over to his party and that he had done nothing illegal.

Announcement of the latest investigation is expected to seriously embarrass Dr. Kohl's coalition government.

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جوردان تايمز

French angry, frustrated over hostages

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
 Amman civil defence 198, 199
 Civil Defence 192 271293, 273131
 Civil Defence Qweishneh 770733
 Ambulance 193, 775111
 Municipal water brigades 77125/5
 First aid 630541
 Blood bank 778303
 Civil Defence rescue 661111
 Fire headquarters 622903-5
 Police rescue 192, 621111 637777
 Traffic headquarters 639141
 Police police 896390-1
 Electric Power Co. 636814-6, 624681
 Municipal water complaints 77125/5
 Queen Alia Int. Airport. (08) 5333060

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
 Khaldi Maternity, J. Arm. 642818/6
 Al-Khild Maternity, J. 644818
 624841/2
 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
 Malhas, J. Amman 636140
 Palestine, Sherehail 664711/4
 Sheratani Hospital 669131
 University Hospital 845654/5/6
 Al-Muasher Hospital 667272/9
 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
 Al-Hadi, Abdali 665166
 Italian, Al-Muasher 773103/3
 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
 Army, Marja 896111/15
 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
 Dr. Wa'el Khartabli 665917
 Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384
 Firas Pharmacy 661912
 Al Salan pharmacy 639730
 Fares pharmacy 664938
 Abu Sharief pharmacy 770595

TAXIS:
 Taxis taxi 644660
 Tinner taxi 666417
 Dweik taxi 668154
 Abdul Hamid taxi 844978
 Raghdan taxi 842400

IRBID:
 Dr. Fawaz Al Moumiani (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'ad 983063
 Al Sadouk pharmacy (—)
 Al Adham pharmacy (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
 Radio Jordan 64111/19
 Ministry of Tourism 642311
 Hotel complaints 776411
 Price complaints 661176
 Telephone Information 12
 Jordan and Middle East calls 10
 Overseas calls 17
 Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	200 / 1200	Grapefruit	100 / 1000
Apple (American)	300 / 450	Lemon	180 / 120
Banana	300 / 450	Lettuce (per one)	100 / 60
Banana (Muhammad)	230 / 220	Marrow (large)	100 / 80
Beetroot	130 / 400	Marrow (small)	150 / 120
Beans	130 / 400	Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Broad beans	180 / 150	Onion (green)	100 / 60
Cabbage	50 / 30	Orange (Shamouti)	240 / 180
Carrot (yellow)	120 / 100	Orange (local and Valencia)	100 / 70
Carrot (black)	140 / 100	Pepper (sweet)	150 / 120
Cauliflower	120 / 100	Pepper (hot)	440 / 400
Cucumber (large)	110 / 80	Potatoes (local)	140 / 100
Cucumber (small)	210 / 170	Potatoes (sweet)	280 / 240
Eggplant (large)	140 / 100	Radishes	80 / 50
Eggplant (small)	270 / 220	Spinach	80 / 50
Garlic	280 / 240	Tomatoes	80 / 40
		Tump	80 / 50

کتابخانه ملی

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB to finance oil imports

BAHJA (R).—The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance oil imports worth \$15 million for Jordan, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. It said this brought loans to Jordan by the Islamic bank, since the start of the current Islamic year last September, to \$30 million.

Rifai meets Syrian parliamentarians

AMMAN (Petra).—Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai conferred at his office Tuesday with visiting Speaker of the Syrian People's Council Mahmoud Al Zuhbi who was accompanied by Mr. Shaker Sa'ad, chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Syrian Council. The meeting was attended by the Syrian charge d'affaires in Jordan.

Canadian envoy visits UNRWA schools

AMMAN (J.T.).—Canadian Ambassador in Amman Gary Harman and his wife, accompanied by director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) affairs in Jordan Mr. Per Olof Hallqvist, Tuesday paid visits to the agency's schools in Waziriyah and in North Shuneh's new school building which was constructed from a Canadian donation of about \$500,000 on a piece of land made available to UNRWA by the municipality of North Shuneh, according to an UNRWA press release.

Alia offers incentives to flower growers

AMMAN (Petra).—Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has decided to offer incentives for local flower growers, similar to those offered to producers of vegetables and fruits, an Alia spokesman announced here Tuesday. He said that the decision was contained in a memorandum sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transport. The spokesman said that Alia would transport locally produced flowers and roses to other countries abroad at a competitive rate to encourage growers to produce and export more.

Local children win prizes in contest

AMMAN (J.T.).—Eleven Jordanian children Monday received gold and silver medals and certificates of merit from the Egyptian Information Council in Amman Mohammed Sami Abbas. The children took part in a contest for gifted children which was organized by the National Egyptian Council for Child Culture at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture.

Arab investment company meets today

AMMAN (Petra).—Meetings of the 28th session of the Baghdad based Arab Company for Industrial Investments (ACII) board of directors will open here today under the chairmanship of its chairman, Mr. Eid Al Tawwab. The two-day meetings will discuss the company's projects, the general budget and final account for 1985 and the annual report of the board of directors. Nine Arab states are grouped in the company which was initially set up with a capital of \$500 million.

Technical committee reviews agricultural produce standards

AMMAN (Petra).—Representatives of six Arab countries and three pan-Arab organizations and corporations opened a meeting in Amman Tuesday to discuss and define specifications and standards of agricultural crops produced in five Arab countries.

The representatives, grouped in a technical committee on fertilizers and soil enrichment materials, are holding their three-day meeting at the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM).

The meeting will review the quality of products produced by 33 agricultural projects in Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia before defining a set of

specifications and standards for these crops, according to an AOSM spokesman.

AOSM Director General Mahdi Hannouch made a speech at the opening session underlining the importance of close cooperation among Arab countries in crop production with the purpose of ensuring Arab food security. He also called on Arab governments to introduce further facilities to help promote agricultural marketing in different Arab states.

On the committee are representatives from Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq and Libya as well as the Arab Union Producers of Fertilisers, the Arab Mining Company in addition to AOSM.

Government plans more higher education opportunities

AMMAN (Petra).—Minister of Higher Education Nasreddin Al Assad said here Tuesday that Jordanian universities this year accepted a total of 650 Jordanian expatriate students who had completed their secondary education in other Arab countries. But the original number of expatriate students applying for seats was 3,300 out of a total of 7,500 Jordanian students who recently completed their secondary studies in Arab countries, the minister said.

In a lecture delivered at the Amman Marriott Hotel, at the invitation of the Petra Lions Club, the minister said that a decision has been taken to offer more opportunities to Jordanian students to acquire higher education in the Kingdom. At present 39,000 Jordanian students are receiving higher education abroad either because they could not find seats in Jordan or were not able to study subjects of their choice, Dr. Assad continued.

He said that the Ministry of Higher Education will from now on open the door for more students to acquire higher education in the country and to obtain training in fields of specialisation which are needed in their communities. The ministry is also trying to satisfy young men's cultural and educational needs and will offer them the chance to widen their scope of knowledge in different subjects, Dr. Assad said.

The Ministry of Higher Education has taken a number of steps towards improving the quality rather than the quantity of education and training that is useful for the Jordanian society and the local market and for implementing the new five-year development plan, the minister pointed out.

He went on to say that plans have been laid for improving the process and quality of education in Jordan from now until the year 2000, taking into consideration the natural increase in the population and the return of Jordanian expatriate students from other countries.

Community colleges

The ministry plans to establish community colleges at Jordanian universities and others which will be connected directly with the ministry and will open the door for the private sector to participate in this endeavor, he continued. But the ministry will maintain total supervision and control over any community college with a view to maintaining their standards, Dr. Assad pointed out.

He said that the ministry has also organized general examinations for community colleges in order to ensure that the set courses have been given and that the colleges maintain high standards. The ministry has started preparing lists of recognised universities abroad with the purpose of guiding Jordanian students where to study once they complete their community college exams and wish to continue higher studies abroad, Dr. Assad added.

Syria calls for total Arab boycott of U.S.
Arab parliamentarians address fourth APU general conference; highlight dangers of Israeli expansion policies, urge concerted efforts to end Gulf war and appeal for unified Arab stands

By Rana Sabagh
and Elia Nasrallah

AMMAN — Syria on Tuesday called for a total Arab boycott of the United States in implementation of resolutions passed by the 12th Arab Parliamentary Union Council in Kuwait and reaffirmed that Syria will remain committed to the course of confrontation with the Israeli enemy, never capitulating and never accepting meaningless promises.

Syria's views were presented to the Arab Parliamentary Union's (APU) fourth general conference which was opened in Amman on Tuesday by His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Mahmoud Al Zuhbi, speaker of the Syrian People's Council, told the delegates that the only sound option for the Arabs is direct and courageous confrontation with the enemy and for this to be achieved, a strategic balance should first be attained in the military, economic, cultural and political fields.

Mr. Zuhbi said that the Arab countries possess the necessary manpower, the economic potential and the requirements for military might to mobilise for the battle against Israel, Syria, for its part, is going ahead with plans to achieve this balance with the Israeli enemy which now poses a serious threat to the whole Arab nation, Mr. Zuhbi pointed out.

Speaking about peace in the absence of a strategic balance with the enemy and in the light of the current and weak Arab situation can only mean acceptance of the Zionist plans, Mr. Zuhbi continued. He said that the Arabs are for a peace which would guarantee the liberation of their land and the regaining of national rights in Palestine, including the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people in their homeland.

But, he said, the Zionist enemy, supported by the United States, is going ahead with plans to expand and to plunder Arab wealth and its seizure of Arab territory. This year alone, Israel will receive \$4.5 billion in direct assistance from the U.S. to help implement Zionist objectives, Mr. Zuhbi added.

The United States is continuing to supply Israel with all types of weapons with which it can achieve its ambitions and aims and he added that the U.S. continues to provide protection at international forums, it helps Israel's terrorist activities in the air and in the blockading of Arab shores which all pose threats against the whole Arab region, Mr. Zuhbi continued.

United Arab Emirates

Addressing the session was United Arab Emirates representative Ahmad Al Madfa'a who spoke of the need for concerted Arab efforts to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end. He said "side disputes and differences" among Arab countries have prevented the Arab nation from addressing itself to this conflict which has sapped many resources and brought

Mr. Bitat said, Algeria, he added, calls on Arab countries to respect the independent Palestinian decision and to extend all possible financial, material and moral help to the Palestinian people to help bolster their steadfastness in the face of Israel's occupation.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq conflict, Mr. Bitat said that it is a source of pain and should be stopped.

Iraq

Dr. Saddam Hamadi, speaker of the Iraqi House of Parliament, said that the Palestinian question remains a central Arab cause which calls for the struggle against Zionism and against its unlawful presence in Palestine. He added that Iraq supports and continues to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to return to their homeland and to establish an independent state.

Dr. Hamadi went on to say that Iraq supports the continuation of the struggle of both the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples and the Arab Nation to attain these goals. "We firmly support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their armed struggle against Zionism along with their political action in order that the Palestinians reach their aspired national goals," he said.

He said that Iraq believes in close cooperation with Arab governments and the PLO in order to meet Arab interests, particularly at such a critical stage, Dr. Hamadi called on Arab governments to support the PLO, with all available means in order that they achieve their national goals.

"We support putting an end to the Lebanese civil war and restoring unity and independence as well as supporting the establishment of a progressive political system and the rebuilding of the war torn country," Dr. Hamadi continued.

Dr. Hamadi told parliamentarians that Iraq is willing to end the war through peaceful means and on the basis of all international laws and the United Nations charter which calls for mutual respect of the independence of all countries and the non-interference in the internal affairs of countries.

Palestine

Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sa'eh noted the strong and brotherly relationship that binds the Palestinian and Jordanian people and he called for the removal of all obstacles that have affected both countries and the defence of "our central cause, Palestine."

"I do hope that we shall continue our joint efforts and in a brotherly spirit filled with freedom and based on the 1985 Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO in order to push our cause forward," Sheikh Sa'eh said. He called on the APU to

exert its efforts in order to face the grave challenges confronting Palestine.

"I hope that the council will recommend the importance of all Arab countries' adherence to the Arab League's charter, the joint Arab defence pact and all Arab summit resolutions," he said, and I sincerely hope that the council discusses the importance of alleviating all obstacles that are impeding the convening of the Riyadh Arab summit in order that our Arab leaders can implement a joint working plan designed to strike a strategic balance with the Israeli Zionist enemy."

He called on the council to influence the US administration and make it change its "arrogant attitudes" vis-a-vis the Arab Nation in order to achieve peace in the region.

Somalia

The head of the Somali delegation, Mohammad Ali Ahmad, addressed the afternoon session calling on Arab countries to bolster their solidarity for the sake of confronting common dangers. Mr. Ahmad said that Arab parliamentarians have a "serious responsibility" in this respect and should take decisions enabling their governments to take action against the common enemies of the Arab World.

With reference to the Gulf conflict, Mr. Ahmad condemned the Iranian aggression on Iraq and paid tribute to the Iraqi armed forces for repelling the aggression. He said Iraq is defending the whole Arab Nation.

Referring to Israel's aggression, he urged Arab countries to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and he warned against Israel's expansionist aims.

Referring to the situation in Lebanon, Mr. Ahmad called on Arab countries and Arab parliamentarians to help the Lebanese people find a solution to end the Lebanese peoples' sufferings.

Tunisia

The Tunisian delegate Abdul Aziz Balafout voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for patronising the conference and requested that the King's speech be considered as an official document for the conference. Mr. Abdul Aziz called on Arab countries to work out a pan Arab plan to handle the numerous common issues they face. After reviewing Israel's plans and propaganda campaigns against the Arab countries, he said Arab parliamentarians should step up their efforts to expose Israel's plans and ambitious designs before world parliaments and world public opinion.

Referring to the Gulf war he said that Tunisia fully backs Iraq in its just struggle against the Iranian aggression.

Kuwait

Mr. Ahmad Al Sa'adoun, speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament, made a review of the general Arab situation which, he said, is characterised by internal disputes and

weakness at a time when common enemies are escalating their aggression on the Arab people. Mr. Sa'adoun referred to the Israeli aggression and said that Israel is continuously supported by the United States which consolidates the Zionist hold on Arab territory. He referred to the Israeli terrorist attacks on the Palestinian people and Israel's drive to evict the Arab population from their homeland.

On the Gulf war, he paid tribute to Iraq for its bid to achieve peace and he deplored Iran for its repeated acts of aggression on Iraq and its occupation of Iraqi territory. This aggression, he said, poses a serious threat to the whole Arab Gulf region.

Lebanon

Dr. Amin Al Hafez of Lebanon addressed the conference outlining his countrymen's resistance activity against the occupation forces in south Lebanon. He said through this resistance the Lebanese are offering a service to the whole Arab Nation.

Dr. Hafez called on the Arab countries to help Lebanon in its drive to liberate its lands from Israeli occupation. Referring to the role of the United Nations forces in the south he said that the United States has recently withheld funds for these forces in a bid to force them to abandon their mission. He urged the Arabs to offer assistance to enable the U.N. forces to maintain their peace keeping role. Dr. Hafez also paid tribute to Syria which, he said, was trying to bring about a reconciliation among its factions and also to help Lebanon confront the Israeli aggression.

North Yemen

Mr. Ali Al Thurr, speaker of the People's Council in North Yemen, voiced his pride in the recent Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement and expressed hope that both countries will surpass and alleviate all sources of tension between them. He said that all Arab countries should denounce internal Arab disputes and should focus on facing the common enemy, Israel, which is strangling the Arabs and Palestinians and forcing the Palestinian people to leave their land through various means of oppression.

He said that regardless of all Arab calls and stands towards solving the Palestine cause and supporting the Palestinian people, nothing has been realised in terms of lessening the Palestinians' agony and returning some of the Palestinian soil. "The Palestine problem at present needs practical solutions and stands, rather than media propaganda and commotion," Mr. Thurr added.

Mr. Thurr continued to say that the Arab relationship with other countries should be based on their reaction towards the Palestine problem which is the cause of all Arabs. He voiced North Yemen's support for Iraq in the Gulf war, and said that Arab stands towards Iraq brothers have been "inadequate."

Mubarak offers to initiate new moves to revive peace process

(Continued from page 1)

that any prolongation of negotiations would "consecrate the Israeli occupation" of Arab territory.

Responding to a question about the disputed Taba region, Mr. Mubarak told the paper he was prepared to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Under the terms of the U.S.-

sponsored 1979 Camp David treaty, Israel vacated Egypt's Sinai peninsula, but has so far refused to quit Taba.

He said he would meet with Peres if an "arbitration paper" was devised on the Taba issue.

"I noticed that Peres has been showing a degree of flexibility, but we want more," said Mr. Mubarak.

Asked about the five-year-old

war between Iran and Iraq, Mr. Mubarak categorically denied any involvement by Egypt on the Iraqi side. But he said that an unspecified number of Egyptian volunteers have been fighting alongside the Iraqis against the Iranians.

"I have repeatedly emphasised that Egypt has not and will not send armed forces to Iraq, because the Iraqi army is strong enough and is not in need of foreign forces to fight for it," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said he was sad because a number of Arab powers have openly allied themselves

with Iran against Iraq. He was obviously alluding to Syria and Libya.

In an indirect reference to Syria Mr. Mubarak told Al Rai Al Aam "it would be better for that Arab power to exert itself in a mediation bid to end the war instead of aggravating and escalating the situation and precipitating problems for the Gulf countries."

He said that a number of these Arab Gulf powers were financially aiding "that Arab power (Syria) which support the Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory."

Asked about the recent bloody

riots in Egypt, Mr. Mubarak told the paper there were "no religious or communist factions behind the mutiny" of internal security forces.

"The (riot) case was merely a protest against the living conditions in the central security camps," he said. "So far we have confirmed information that no elements were behind the riots."

Mr. Mubarak discounted chances of a coalition government of Egypt's ruling party and the opposition parties as a means of smoothing over difficulties stemming from the riots.

Doctor begins Beirut mission

(Continued from page 1)

Pierre-Henri Amstutz, arrived in west Beirut on Tuesday to seek the release of Philippe Rochot, cameraman Georges Hansen, soundman Aurel Cornea, and technician Jean-Louis Normandin.

Witnesses said Mr. Amstutz and a replacement film crew were being escorted by Lebanese militiamen wherever they went.

In another indication of the dangers for west Beirut's 1,600-strong French community, two foreign nurses were stopped on Monday by gunmen near the Pal-

estinian camp where they work. The gunmen asked if they were French, but let them go after they showed identity papers, the French-language L'Orient-Le Jour daily reported. It did not give their nationality.

In east Beirut, a spokesman for the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia expressed solidarity with France and the families of the hostages. Walid Phares invited diplomats and foreign journalists to "move to our areas where we assure them they will enjoy absolute security and freedom of action."

Iraqis closing in on Fao terminal

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier on Tuesday, Iraq said its navy attacked a "very large naval target" — its normal term for an oil tanker — near the Iranian coast.

A military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, said the attack took place at 3:29 a.m. (0029 GMT).

Iraq reported two air attacks on Monday. Shipping sources in the Gulf said they had no word of any hits on shipping on Tuesday, or in

the past two days.

The last confirmed Iraqi attack was on Feb. 28, when Iraqi warplanes hit the Hong Kong-owned, 105,000 deadweight tonne Energy Courage as it steamed towards Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal to take on crude.

Three ships were hit in apparent Iranian attacks lower down the Gulf last week, including one on the Cypriot tanker Wise last Thursday in which four crewmen were killed.

Thatcher rejects Soviet plan

(Continued from page 1)

of the details of Mr. Gorbachev's plan "are clearly not appropriate for consideration at this time."

The Foreign Office said Mrs. Thatcher "went on to suggest we should concentrate now on achieving realistic, balanced and verifiable arms control measures across the board on the basis of detailed proposals which were on the table" at the Geneva talks between the United States and the Soviet Union.

On Nov. 1, the United States proposed a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons, and on Feb. 24 Mr. Reagan called for eliminating U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia "by the end of this decade."

Mr. Gorbachev's proposal was for eliminating Soviet and U.S. missiles in the European zone, but made no mention of Soviet missiles in Soviet Asia.

Mrs. Thatcher has argued that Britain's Polarix force, consisting of four submarines, each with 16 missiles, represents only about three per cent of the superpowers' arsenals, and is the "minimum" required to give Britain a credible last-ditch defence.

Mrs. Thatcher also stressed the need to "correct the imbalance in conventional forces and to widen East-West discussions to include regional, bilateral and human rights issues," the Foreign Office said.

Soviets protest U.S. order

(Continued from page 1)

between our countries in different spheres," the protest said.

"U.S. pretensions to assume a right to fix staff levels of the permanent missions of countries at the United Nations are totally inadmissible," the protest said.

"The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs is stating a resolute protest against the U.S. government's illegitimate demand for a reduction of the personnel of the USSR permanent mission at the United Nations in New York," the sta-

tement began.

"The U.S. action is arbitrary, unfounded and constitutes a flagrant violation by the United States of the obligation, assumed by it as the country where the headquarters of U.N. central agencies is located, to ensure the necessary conditions for the normal activities of the U.N. and for unimpeded participation of the U.N. member nations in its work."

Soviet media have complained about the U.S. order, describing it as a hostile action aimed at damaging superpower relations.

Jordan Times

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The wrong way

SLOWLY, quietly and without much fanfare, the government of Jordan has entered the business of farming in a big way. The government is now instituting a system by which cropping patterns in the rainfed and highland areas will be implemented according to licences issued by agricultural offices in the separate governorates. Is this a good or a bad thing?

Our suspicion is that it is a bad thing, but only the test of time will prove us right or wrong. We have yet to see proof from any country in the world that the government makes a better farmer than the farmers themselves. It is self-deception of the highest order for the public sector to assume that it can run the nation's farms better than the farmers can. It is true that the Jordanian agricultural sector has suffered from a chronic imbalance in supply and demand, and that the farmers themselves tend to lose in the end if too many tomatoes or cucumbers are grown every year. But the answer does not lie in the government taking over the farmer's decisions.

The government's role should be to study the macro-agricultural picture, determine where imported food products could be supplied locally, and devise the financial, supply, credit, marketing and other incentives that would induce local farmers to adjust their cropping patterns according to the most important force that has motivated farmers since he planted the first apple tree — financial gain. There are precious few examples of the public sector, in this or any other country, having successfully assumed decision-making responsibilities in the agricultural sector. If the Jordanian government proves to be the sole exception to this otherwise universal rule, we would be delighted to see proof of this in the coming years. We doubt it will happen, however.

The fact remains that in recent years, the government has tried unsuccessfully, albeit with good intentions, to intervene in the agricultural marketplace on the level of the farmer and the consumer. In looking again for means to tackle our agricultural problems, we should rely more on humility, and the wisdom of the farmer, and less on the public sector's enormous capacity to intervene in the marketplace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Resistance continues

RARELY a day passes without another instance of a heroic act on the part of our people in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist occupation forces. In return, the Israeli enemy continues to resort to an escalation of reprisal attacks against the Arabs in a bid to suppress resistance and stifle the national spirit of the Palestinian people. The hunger strike started by the Arab detainees in Hebron and which has now extended to many other detention camps and prisons, speaks loudly and expresses the true national resistance and the determination to confront the Zionists. The detainees are protesting against the in-human treatment by the Israeli authorities and want to get back their freedom. As this goes on, and as the Israelis continue to escalate their arbitrary actions against the Arab population, the international community keeps a closed eye and turns a deaf ear to the atrocities. The world community is not doing anything to support the just cause of the Palestinian people. As many countries allocate huge sums of money to support mutiny and disobedience of certain factions of people in other parts of the world, they forget about the just cause of the Palestinians and their rights in their homeland. We hope that, at least, the Parliamentarians now holding meetings in Amman will be able to convey the Palestinian message to the world through their governments and other forums.

Al Dustour: Deputies' responsibilities

KING Hussein opens the fourth meeting of the Arab Parliamentarian Union in Amman with an important speech, outlining the issues and the difficulties which our nation continues to face. The gathering of parliamentarians is an important event for the Arabs and the nation which attaches hopes to the deliberations designed to come up with solutions for the issues. The parliamentarians indeed have the power to end the present state of weakness and the divisions characterising the Arab situation and bring salvation for the nation. The parliamentarians meeting assumes added importance in view of the current onslaught directed against the Arabs by their common enemies. They also have the power to initiate democratic rule in their own countries under which all can live in security and peace that enhances cohesion and bolsters unity among Arab ranks. Legislative authorities in the Arab World can do a lot to deepen the ideology of unity in their own communities. Therefore, we look to the meetings in Amman as a stepping stone towards a better future and more security and democracy. We also look to the parliamentarians to remove all obstacles that still impede a reconciliation among Arab countries, and a joint action that would enable us to confront the Zionist and the Iranian aggressions on our land.

Sawt Al Shaab: The King's speech

THE representatives of the people in different Arab countries Tuesday open a meeting in Amman to discuss various issues of concern to their nation and to consult one another about measures to be taken in view of the continued challenges posed against this nation. They hear King Hussein's speech which is frank and clear, and which reflects the thoughts and the aspirations of the whole nation. As he did a few days ago in a candid speech to the nation, King Hussein speaks in total frankness on the current situation and analyses the current affairs and the developments in our region. The King focuses Arab people's attention on the need to mobilise efforts and resources for serving the main cause and the central issue, and measures to be followed for securing a just and durable solution for the Palestine problem. The King's speech is directed to the minds and the hearts of millions of Arabs through their representatives who can and must work seriously to fulfil their people's aspirations.



Philippines shows signs of resentment over American presence

By Brian Williams
 Reuters

MANILA — "Look, we don't need you."

The words were spoken politely to a cameraman from an American television network.

But when uttered by a priest in a church there was no mistaking their force.

The Philippines has started to reassert itself after the latest invasion of its islands.

The battle is being waged on two fronts — first against a perceived takeover of the country by the foreign media and second against suggestions that President Corason Aquino's "people power" revolution could not have been won without American support.

Some examples in the past few days:

"First I'll take questions from the local press," — Joker Arroyo, Aquino's executive secretary, laying down guidelines at a press conference.

"No correspondent. Just a cam-

eraman and a soundman. I don't care what you worked out with the U.S. embassy," — Female aide Mely Nicolas' firm instructions to another U.S. television crew minutes before the first American congressman arrived at Aquino's office to congratulate her.

"Will President Aquino succumb to American pressure?" — columnist Emilio Serrano's question in the metro Manila Times.

About 900 reporters, more than half American, flooded into the Philippines to cover the events which started with the February 7 presidential election.

Some local journalists complained they were elbowed aside at press conferences and favoured treatment was given to the foreign media in interviewing leading Aquino aides.

Resentment still smoulders among many Filipinos that Marcos announced the presidential election on a U.S. television show.

The Philippine daily Inquirer protested in a front-page article on March 8 that Filipino photographers had been banned from

covering events at the presidential palace while photographers from foreign organisations were admitted.

The priest's stern words to the U.S. television crew came when they wanted to interview him while a service was in progress.

Resentment at suggestions that the United States played a leading role in bringing down President Ferdinand Marcos is part of a wider and more serious debate about the future of relations between the two countries.

Sensitivity about the issue has added to the long-standing strains about the two huge American military bases in the Philippines and the United States' one-time rule of the country.

A low profile by the U.S. embassy and the undisputed efforts of the first U.S. congressman to call on Aquino to avoid an "ugly American" tag has not been enough to deflect criticism.

House of Representatives member Stephen Solarz, the New York Democrat who led the three-member team, went out of

his way to start each speech or press conference with the words: "You did it. We have come here to pay homage to the Philippine people."

But there have been increasing newspaper articles and letters to the editor complaining that the United States was trying to take credit for overthrowing Marcos after supporting him for most of his 20-year rule.

"In other words, the U.S. is a scene stealer and glory grabber," Greg Pineda said in a letter to the Sunday Times.

An editorial in the Inquirer on March 8 said the United States should not follow the example of the "crowing of the cock at dawn believing that it is his crowing which makes the sun rise."

Columnist Teodoro Valencia warned in March 9 Sunday Express that the United States would demand the same compliance from Aquino as was demanded from Marcos.

"That promised aid won't come without ropes and steel springs," he wrote.

Spanish referendum appears heading towards 'No'

By Francisco Conde
 The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — The heated national debate over Spain's continued membership in NATO is agitating the domestic political scene as the Wednesday referendum approaches.

All but one of the polls published in the final week of the campaign indicate Spaniards will vote to abandon the North Atlantic alliance.

Debate over what Spain's long-term defence and security strategies should be has given way to questions about the consequences on domestic politics of a vote against the pro-NATO position of Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The referendum question asks Spaniards whether they approve the government's decision to keep Spain in NATO under three conditions — that Spain not integrate its armed forces into the NATO military structure, that it remain free of nuclear weapons and that the number of U.S. military personnel stationed on four leased bases be reduced.

The Socialists opposed NATO entry in 1982 under a centrist government and promised to hold a

referendum on leaving the alliance if they won elections in October that year.

After 3½ years as head of a government, backed by an overwhelming parliamentary majority, Gonzalez says his experience has convinced him NATO membership is in Spain's best interests.

The virulence of the debate has surprised and startled many Spaniards, grown accustomed to moderation in the decade since democracy was restored after the death of Gen. Francisco Franco.

"What is most disturbing about the campaign is the increasing polarisation," Jose Maria Benegas, Socialist Party organisation chief, wrote Saturday in the independent Madrid daily El Pais.

"One doesn't have to be pessimistic to recognise the language of the old Hispanic intolerance," the independent Madrid daily Diario 16, which supports NATO membership, called the decision to hold the referendum "a tremendous error ... We've all lost already and will pay in one way or another."

After the latest polls were published, the heads of Spain's "big seven" private banks and the state-run Banco Exterior urged

citizens to vote for NATO membership. It was the first time they joined together publicly to take a position on a political issue.

Rumours that Gonzalez would resign or dissolve parliament to call early elections if the referendum fails are rife. But Gonzalez has said he will stay in office until his term ends in October.

The issue is full of ironies and contradictions.

For one, a 278-vote in parliament last December approving NATO membership could be overturned by the referendum.

Although referendum results are not constitutionally binding on the government, Gonzalez has said he feels a moral obligation to renounce Spain's NATO membership if the 'No' vote prevails.

Another irony is that although the Socialists originally opposed NATO membership, they are now alone in supporting it.

Gonzalez was unable to convince many members of his own party and the Socialist-oriented General Workers Union (UGT) — the country's largest labour union and a key vote base for the Socialists — to fall in behind party leadership.

In an attempt to confound the Socialists with an eye on October

general elections, the conservative popular coalition opposition is preaching abstention although it is a staunch supporter of the North Atlantic alliance.

This stance has earned coalition leader Manuel Fraga pointed criticism from West Germany's Christian Democratic Party, which wants Spain in NATO and fears the precedent of a member country pulling out.

Supporters of a 'No' vote cover the political spectrum from Communists, dissident Socialists, pacifists and ecologists to staunchly nationalist and extreme right-wing groups.

These groups have painted NATO as an aggressive alliance controlled by the United States, appealing to deep-seated anti-American feelings based on two decades of U.S. cooperation with the Franco government and the presence of 12,500 American soldiers at four joint-use bases.

The conservative coalition and those opposing continued NATO membership see Gonzalez's promise to renounce the nation's treaty with NATO members as a not-so-subtle threat to ensure that conservative voters ignore their leaders and vote "Yes" or suffer the consequences.

Doubts and fears in Sweden

By Stephen H. Miller
 The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A single bullet from a revolver has shaken one of the world's most carefully crafted societies, where the standard of living is high and Socialism coddles Swedes from the cradle to the grave.

The copper-jacketed .357-calibre Magnum bullet fatally wounded Prime Minister Olof Palme on Feb. 28 as he walked home from a movie with his wife Lisbet, 55, on a downtown Stockholm street without bodyguards.

"Sweden will never be the same again," said Ulf Adelsohn, the leader of the opposition Conservative Party. "The meaningless violence will forever cast its shadow over our political life."

Palme's death was the first major assassination in nearly two centuries in a relatively remote, peaceful country of 8.1 million people that stretches from the Baltic Sea to well above the Arctic Circle.

Once one of Europe's most aggressive warrior nations, Sweden has not fought a war since joining an alliance against Napoleon in 1813.

It escaped World War I and maintained an awkward neutrality in World War II, sheltering Jews from neighbouring Denmark but granting passage to Nazi troops headed for battle against the Soviet Union.

Power-bungry King Gustav III,

shot at a masked ball in 1792, was the last Swedish leader to be assassinated until the 59-year-old Palme was killed.

Palme's shooting left Swedes reflecting on the problems of what Palme called "the freest, most humane and secure society that has ever existed."

Swedes appear to live well in a country of striking beauty and sleek, solidly built products, a country where poverty has been virtually eliminated. The average industrial worker makes the equivalent of \$11,600 a year.

Well-supplied with sailboats, Volvo and some of the flashiest nightspots in Scandinavia, Swedes also live in a welfare society expanded over the years by Palme's Social Democratic Party.

It features sick leave, one year of parental leave from work for the mother or father of a new baby, free medical care, and retirement pensions more generous than expensive private plans in many countries, all subsidised by the government.

Parents are entitled to at least 60 government-paid days at home a year to care for ailing children. Daycare centres are common, and parents placing their child in one are entitled to days off to help the child adjust.

The wide array of social benefits is financed by staggering taxes, which now lie at the heart of Sweden's most basic domestic political battles.

A married Swede without children pays at least 35 per cent of

his wages in income taxes if he earns the equivalent of \$14,000 a year. He also pays close to a 20 per cent tax on virtually every manufactured product.

In the national election only a few months before his death, Palme's opponents depicted him as a "champion tax raiser" and the head of a Social Democratic Party devoted to "big brother politics" that were chipping away at Swedish freedoms as the welfare state expanded.

Palme, in turn, charged the moderates and their supporters with planning to dismantle the welfare state and reduce financial support for millions of Swedes.

The Social Democrats won re-electing Palme.

Palme's leftward politics made him a controversial figure worldwide. At home, he was revered by supporters and sometimes bitterly opposed by critics who saw him as combative and arrogant.

Swedes understood Adelsohn this previous week when he described Ingvar Carlsson, Palme's successor, as a man "I trust without reservation. And he doesn't seek conflict."

Searching for a motive for Palme's killer, Swedes found themselves confronting several possibilities.

West German terrorists were thought to hold a grudge against Palme because his government extradited one of their wounded comrades after a 1975 West German embassy occupation in Stockholm.

The wounded terrorist later,

died, and terrorists blamed Palme's government.

Social Democrats had kept Sweden's door open to political refugees from around the world, just as it sheltered Danish Jews in the 1940s and American military deserters during the Vietnam war. In recent years, however, some refugees brought their disputes with them.

One Kurdish organisation had threatened Palme because his government treated it as a terrorist group.

Yugoslavia's ambassador to Sweden was killed in 1971 by exiled activists from Croatia, a Yugoslavian republic. Other Croats carried out Sweden's only airplane hijacking about 18 months later. Sweden harbours about 40,000 Yugoslavian immigrants.

Sweden's relatively small gangs of Neo-Nazis objected to dark-skinned immigrants. A Neo-Nazi group in the western port city of Goeteborg put Palme at the head of a death list in 1985.

Both Swedes and immigrants found themselves worrying that discovery of a foreign assassin could cause ugly problems for a once tolerant but changing society, where one can now see "nigger go home" scrawled on Stockholm buildings.

The Rev. Berth Oerhamborg, speaking to weeping parishioners in Stockholm's great church cathedral the day after the murder, said Swedes thought such things as Palme's killing happen "in the U.S.A., in Beirut, but not here in our country."

Salvadorean prison keeps revolutionary spirits high

By Robert Block
 Reuters

MARIONA, El Salvador — Since civil war flared in El Salvador six years ago, a cell block at La Esperanza prison outside the capital has housed hundreds of men accused of political crimes — and is also a place where dreams of revolution are kept alive.

In a cell block off the central plaza, inmates recently gathered to sing revolutionary songs and watch a skit about the torture of prisoners.

The songs are forbidden on the outside but here they are sung with enthusiasm and without fear. There are no guards looking on within the block. The inmates maintain order in the block where red rebel flags are painted on cement walls.

The prisoners say many of those arrested on subversion charges were never guerrillas. But they say many who did not side with the rebel cause before entering the political section at La Esperanza now do.

The leftist guerrillas' radio Venceremos calls the political section of the men's prison a front of their war against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government, "one more trench of the revolution."

"We are carrying out a struggle for justice and against oppression," Heriberto Orellana, 29, president of the Committee of Political prisoners of El Salvador (COPPES), told Reuters in a recent interview at the jail.

The grey walls of the political cellblock are decorated with placards calling for support for the guerrillas and an end to torture.

There are appeals, too, for prisoners to participate in a COPPES literacy campaign and use the section's tiny library.

Chickens wander through the cement hallways and dirty courtyards. On Sundays and Thursdays relatives are allowed to bring in home-cooked meals and children run underfoot.

The political prisoners are kept apart from the 1,200 common criminals at the institution, but theirs is the fastest growing cellblock at La Esperanza.

Built to hold 600 inmates, the block now houses 750, more than at any other time during six years of war.

Most of those in the political section are held on suspicion of participating in subversive activities against the government. The prisoners insist, however, that only a minority ever belonged to the guerrillas' Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) military alliance.

The others, they say, are union and student activists, relatives of guerrilla combatants or civilians whose only crime was to live in rebel-controlled zones.

According to one lawyer who represents many political prisoners, the majority of inmates have never been sentenced for any crime and there is little evidence against them.

Political suspects can be held without trial under a government emergency decree which restricts civil liberties while the civil strife

continues. Under the decree, Salvadoreans can be arrested on suspicion and sent to prison on the basis of extra-judicial confessions alone when evidence is lacking. The confessions, inmates say, are always coerced under torture, a charge denied by security forces but supported by human rights groups.

Once jailed, prisoners are assigned to a single military judge, who, according to Justice Minister Julio Samayoa, is overburdened by the workload and unable to review all cases.

Government sources also say the armed forces are opposed to releasing any political prisoners, whom it views as guerrillas and guilty of subversion.

But once inside the political section, many who did not previously side with the guerrillas change their opinion.

"When people come here, they have personal interests to fight for — their freedom. It is likely many will leave with a different concept (of the political situation) than when they entered," Orellana said.

Captured 10 months ago by the national police, Orellana says he was beaten, tortured and denied sleep.

He was named COPPES president by fellow inmates last November after some 30 political prisoners were released in exchange for the freedom of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's daughter, who was kidnapped by the FMLN.

Orellana said he was affiliated with a rebel group but denied that COPPES has any formal links to the FMLN. He said, however, it was logical it should side with the guerrillas.

"We have felt the violation of human rights in our own flesh. We are tired of the injustice in the country and if that is what the FMLN is fighting against, we sympathise with them," Orellana said.

COPPES, which runs the political section and maintains its own disciplinary code, holds indoctrination meetings to keep up the spirit of struggle. Prison sources said some prisoners also conduct military training in the block, using realistic-looking wooden rifles.

During a festival celebrating a proposal to El Salvador's congress for the repeal of a government decree allowing arrest on suspicion alone, the inmates performed a satirical skit on how security forces capture, torture and exact confessions from innocent suspects.

The inmate actors portraying the police wore scarves on their heads which read "killers of the people," and brandished wooden G-3 assault rifles and Uzi sub-machine guns.

Whenever the suspect was playfully slapped around to confess to being a rebel — an experience prisoners say all went through — the audience burst into laughter and tears. At the end of the skit the inmates sang more revolutionary songs.

The first line of the song said: "My friend is in prison for saying what he thought."

Kashmir's Hindus plan exodus

By Chaitanya Kalbag
 Reuters

SRINAGAR, India — Unprecedented violence in Jammu and Kashmir could cause a flight of Hindus from India's only Muslim-dominated state and present Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with a major political crisis, residents say.

The residents say the state government has failed to protect them from Muslim violence and leaders of the 80,000-strong Kashmiri Pandit (upper-caste Hindu) community were preparing to issue a call for supporters to migrate from the Kashmir valley.

Meeting in Srinagar, capital of the state bordering Pakistan, they said the Hindus had their "backs to the wall" after years of discrimination in education and employment.

"The large-scale arson, pillage, plunder and desecration of our temples in last month's attacks was aimed at creating conditions for the mass exodus of Hindus," Hindu Action Committee leader Bal Krishna Handoo told Reuters.

"If we quit Kashmir we will be handing it on a platter to Muslim groups who want to secede from India — but that is for the central government to consider," Handoo said.

Widely criticised for failing to control the violence, the state government meanwhile faced collapse on Friday after it lost the support of Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

But Gandhi was left with the difficult task of reassuring Hindus in the Kashmir valley about their future in the strategic region over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since 1947.

In July 1984, former Chief Minister Farouq Abdullah was top-

pled when a group of rebels from his National Conference Party formed a new government with Congress (I) backing.

The charismatic Abdullah was then accused by Indian leaders of sheltering Muslim fundamentalists and Sikh extremists from neighbouring Punjab state.

But in a sign of failure to curb separatist groups, the state's deputy Chief Minister O.D. Thakur said last Thursday that several of those arrested after the attacks were supporters of the fundamentalist Muslim Jamaat-E-Islami group.

The group rejects the accession to India in 1947 by the former princely state and demands a plebiscite to determine to which country Kashmiris would prefer to belong.

"This kind of situation harms the national interest in a very sensitive area," Thakur told reporters in New Delhi. "The scars are more noticeable in a Muslim-majority area."

Thakur said the violence in Kashmir, which coincided with attacks by Muslim youths on several Hindu shrines in Jacobabad in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, "suggests a broad affinity in approach."

Abdullah, tipped by political analysts to return to power if the state government falls, charged that Muslim fundamentalists had grown in strength since his dismissal 20 months ago.

He said last month's attacks marked the first time Hindus had been attacked by Muslims in rural Kashmir, shattering years of peace between the two communities.

Does Gandhi want the Hindu who believes in destiny, the way? Does he want a Punjab Kashmir? Abdullah said.



Goya's Marquessa de Santa Cruz

Spanish artist Goya sparks lawsuit, top auction prices, opera

By Jules Stewart
Reuters

MADRID — Spain and Britain are wrangling over a portrait by Francisco de Goya, the master of the black canvas, who would probably have assigned both contenders to one of his satirical etchings.

The Spanish government has recently asked Britain's high court to block the auction next month of a Goya masterpiece it alleges was illegally exported.

The dispute arose over the Marquessa de Santa Cruz, an 1805 portrait of Spanish noblewoman which British auction house Christie's plans to offer for sale on April 11 in London on behalf of the painting's British owner, Lord Wintborne.

"We are prepared to use all necessary means to prevent this auction," culture ministry secretary General Miguel Sastre said in a statement.

"There are strict codes of ethics which prevent Christie's from auctioning an illegally-exported work of art," he said.

Christie's describe the painting as the most important Spanish picture to be sold for 16 years and art experts say it would fetch more than £8 million (\$12 million).

While Spanish and British lawyers lock horns over the portrait of the reclining marquessa, Madrid's Prado Museum is mapping out plans for the biggest-ever Goya exhibition in the United States in

1988, with showings in New York and Boston.

At the same time, Italian composer Gian Carlo Menotti is putting the final touches on his opera "Goya," due to have its world premiere in Washington next autumn with Spanish tenor Placido Domingo in the starring role.

Goya paintings are commanding record prices in Madrid auction houses and the artist's life has inspired two Spanish television serials.

Goya was the world's first modern painter," said Prado Museum assistant curator Manuela Mena.

"His artistic rendition of events that are still fresh is one of the reasons people are taking a renewed interest in his life and work," she told Reuters in an interview.

She said Goya's commitment to social issues and European liberalism was evident in paintings like the Injured Man, a 1786 canvas depicting two construction labourers carrying a fallen comrade.

"This was a forerunner of Socialist realism," she said.

The son of an impoverished master glazier from Aragon, Goya was a social climber, a womanizer, a chronicler of revolutionary violence and a living symbol of his turbulent times.

As court painter under Charles IV, Goya epitomised the self-seeking arriviste, to the point that he changed his high-society subjects more to include hands in a

portrait, which he considered more difficult to execute.

Goya's reputation as a top-echelon libertine erupted in scandal over his portrait of the Naked Maja, thought to be the Duchess of Alba, Spain's highest-ranking noblewoman.

"It hasn't been proven but it would seem that Goya had an affair with the duchess," Mena said. The career of the painter who had to flee Madrid in the wake of a stormy love affair with a married woman and who was rumoured to have tried his hand at bullfighting, took a sombre twist at the height of his glory.

At 46, Goya lost his hearing after an illness that almost killed him.

He found an outlet for his sober mood in the Spanish people's resistance to the 1808 Napoleonic invasion of Spain.

"It was the first guerrilla war. The first people's war of modern history," British art historian Gwyn Williams said.

Goya became the first artist to depict on canvas the guerrilla, as well as the horrors of modern warfare.

He worked feverishly, copying what he witnessed each day from his Madrid studio — street massacres and destruction culminating in the chilling Dos de Mayo painting of a lamp-lit night execution of Spanish partisans by French troops.

Goya's darkening spirit and disillusion with politics took him

deeper into the realm of the macabre.

The ailing, deaf artist produced his celebrated black paintings — a mural collection of witches and monsters — working at night by the light of candles strapped to his stovepipe hat.

Goya died at 82 in self-imposed exile in Bordeaux, southern France, dismayed over the collapse of Spain's attempts at liberal constitutional government.

He became after death a symbol of his obsession with the grotesque. When his body was exhumed for return to Spain it was discovered that the head was missing. Its resting place is still unknown.

Goya's output of almost 2,000 paintings, etching and drawings had a deep influence on modern artists such as Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali.

Mena and Gynna both see direct Goya touches in Picasso's anti-war paintings like Guernica, a dramatic mural protest against the uprising of dictator Francisco Franco, and the delicate realism of his pink period.

"In his painting Dream and Life of Franco, Picasso drew directly on Goya ... as he did in his preparatory work for Guernica," Gynna said.

Mena said Goya was evident in Picasso's pink period, while most art historians agree that surrealist artist Dali was inspired by Goya's black paintings and satirical etchings.

'Socio-economical contribution of Jordanian women below potential'

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian women constitute approximately half of the country's population, yet their economic and social contribution remains well below the level commensurate with their numbers and potential ability, according to a report by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. A conclusion reached by individuals interviewed and research conducted by the ministry said that the reasons for women's low participation in the labour market can be attributed to cultural, social and religious orientations.

Uprobing does not encourage a female to be career oriented as from the time she enters the world, she is forced into a role which does not allow her to make full use of her talents and powers. Rather she must renounce personal aspirations and suppress her own will so as to allow others to achieve theirs. A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report states that women in the Arab World suffer from feelings of helplessness, lack of motivation, passiveness and limited aspirations.

Traditional family beliefs may hinder women from finding work outside the home. "In a society like ours, in general a man's society, this idea of working with men is not accepted by most families. It was a gradual process which led to the acceptance of a woman participating at the university level of education," said Mr. Munir Al Masri, director general of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

Working is often regarded as a transition to marriage and/or a pastime or something to do after the children have grown. The most important career for the majority of Arab women is marriage.

"Women think of marriage from a different angle to men. Marriage is the career, or a good part of their career. Men never think of marriage as a substitute for work," commented Mr. Masri.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development noted that about 70 per cent of females aged 20 years or more are married. This indicates that women get married soon after finishing their education and at a time when they are ready to enter the labour market, continued the report. One fifth of 20-24 year old females enter the market, and this figure is when it is at its peak. Five per cent of females aged 30 years

enter the job market, and marriage is the major reason.

Lack of facilities

Mr. Masri said that the lack of facilities such as transport, care centres, and kindergartens, do not encourage a woman to work. A woman in Jordan has an average of seven children in her lifetime so, unless there are proper establishments and services to care for her children while she is at work, the mother will find it difficult to continue work after marriage he continued.

"A woman who does not feel comfortable about where her children are will not work," said Mr. Masri. He cited the example of the Soviet Union where mothers receive longer periods of paid leave and extra at half pay. There are also daily care centres and the mother's health is looked after. This is because the USSR looks at the child in a global manner, as one who will be contributing to society and therefore, must receive the necessary care to become an upright citizen. Mr. Masri said adding that appropriate facilities and the mother's presence are very important.

Help from husbands

In addition, a working mother does not usually receive any help from her husband. So when she takes on a job outside the house, she still has to deal with the housework and bringing up the children. Only a very small minority of husbands give the kind of help that assertions of equality in modern marriages imply. This means that a woman who works outside the home undertakes two jobs in addition to her paid employment; housework and childcare. Husband's participation usually concerns the non-core aspects of the job such as reading and playing with the children, or taking the older children out.

Mr. Masri also believes that some employers stunt women's career development. He says that they avoid sending women on scholarships because they feel "it is a waste" and advancement is linked with males. For example figures show that in numbers females predominate in the Ministry of Education because there are many more female than male teachers. But looking at the top positions in the ministry, these positions are occupied by males. Employer stu-



Most Jordanian women marry at the early age of 20 or below, thus the low percentage of working women

dies have shown that males and females achieve the same level of efficiency, accuracy, and training, but males excel in attendance compared to women.

Another factor hindering female advancement is other females and Mr. Masri commented that women not only do not take the initiative, but fight against the advancement of other females and thereby act as negative forces. Some studies conducted have shown that females prefer male bosses.

Female dependency

Religion makes life a lot easier for some women as in Islam if a woman does not have a source of income then by law she must be supported by the menfolk. The man does not have this right. Jordan presently has a dependency ratio as 1:5 which means that every one male supports himself and four others. The average for developed countries is between 1:2 and 1:3, said Mr. Masri.

Another factor which cannot be overlooked is the economy itself. It is becoming increasingly evident that the manpower requirements of Jordan are concentrated in agriculture, construction and lower level services, according to Mr. Masri. Less than 2 per cent of the total 17 per cent of the workforce employed in these sectors are women. Vocational training schools have the lowest attendance of females among all the higher education institutions. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development report said that men have a higher degree of freedom of movement and practice of various economic activities. Consequently, they are more flexible in accepting employment conditions. Low wages and negligible

economic and social motives could also have an important role in women's reluctance to enter the labour force, even if the opportunities are available.

Effect of men working abroad

Employment opportunities for women are not sufficient which means that seeking employment is a hard task for women since they have to compete with men who are generally better trained and educated. The ministry's report noted. During the 1960's and 70's, when there was emigration of males mostly between the ages of 20-49, there was a noticeable increase in the female participation in the labour force, especially during the second half of the 1970's. The report showed that in 1960, 3.2 per cent of women were employed. This increased to 7 per cent in 1979 (Figures are for females aged 20-39). The participation of other age groups did not change much during 1961-79 and this emphasises the fact that women took over jobs that were vacant due to male emigration, the report stated.

The report continued that consequently, it can be predicted that woman's participation in the labour force will be directly affected and the rate of female unemployment will increase because male emigration has decreased since the beginning of the 1980's, due to return of expatriates.

The situation in the Jordanian economy has led to cultural, social, and religious obstacles to women's participation in the labour force. It can barely employ males let alone females. However, when the woman is needed in the economy, she is pulled into the workforce regardless of the obstacles.

Israelis are split over religious revival

By Howard Golter
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Ten years ago Uri Zohar was Israel's most irreverent and famous comedian. Now he wears the long black suit of an ultra-religious Jew, prays three times daily and studies Judaism's Torah scriptures.

Alon, Kaplan was an Israeli soccer star until three years ago. He gave up a sports career to train with a 96-year-old Rabbi.

Zohar and Kaplan are among an estimated 15,000 Jews in Israel who were once hostile or indifferent towards religion and have embraced orthodox Judaism in the last 10 years. In Hebrew they are called "Baalei Tshuva," or penitent ones.

Not all don the sombre black snail and beard of the ultra-orthodox or study fulltime like Zohar. At the least, however, they observe sacred traditions for diet, the sabbath and marital relations that can often separate them from other Israelis.

Hebrew University instructor Janet Aviad, an expert on Baalei Tshuva, says they find "meaning, community and bounds" in religion much the way some young people found it 20 years ago in political activism, communal living and hippy hitchhiking.

Rabbi Noah Weinberg, Zohar's teacher and dean of Aish Hatorah College of Jewish Studies says:

"There is a return to religion."

Rabbis, many of them American-born, have now formed more than a dozen religious colleges in Israel, called Yeshivas, which specially cater to newly orthodox Jews aged from 18 to 35. Some operate American, British and other branches.

"These Yeshivas put Baalei Tshuva on the map," Aviad says. Operating on million-dollar budgets, mostly from donations but also tuition fees and government aid, the Yeshivas are drawing Jews, generally from abroad, who report finding answers to practical concerns in the structured study of Jewish law.

Rabbi Neta Schiller, dean of Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, says many students are "young married couples who take classes about how to bring up their children. They're concerned about the stability of their marriages in a world of instability."

Some secular Jews view the Yeshivas with suspicion, accusing them of brainwashing and intolerance. Newspaper accounts tell of families rent asunder when members take the religious path.

The issue was highlighted again last month by the arrival of Anatoly Shcharansky, the freed Soviet Jew whose wife Avital became observant during the 12 years she waited for him in Israel.

Already the non-observant Shcharansky has faced press questions about how he will get along with his spouse in a largely secular society which regards orthodoxy as an all-or-nothing thing. "Quite well, thank you," was his reply.

Kaplan, 30, who drives a Tel Aviv bus to earn money, acknowledges he has become separated from former soccer teammates and says he misses them. "But I want them to understand they're missing something too," he adds.

Many secular Israelis voice resentment over the way orthodox law controls marriage and divorce and restricts sabbath activities, even banning public transport. The violent extremism of a few ultra-orthodox evokes generalisations that hurt the Yeshivas.

Rabbi Schiller uses the example of the orthodox Jew who throws stones at cars driven on the sabbath, which is forbidden by Jewish law. "Every time somebody throws a stone, one less guy comes to Ohr Somayach. It hurts because people generalise," he says.

Rabbis and some researchers suggest secular Israelis feel threatened because they lack confidence in their own way of life. They dismiss the allegation of brainwashing.

Aviad says: "There's no brainwashing, nothing underhanded. There's no guru Rabbi who can say 'This is truth.' People come and go. It's not withdrawn. The secular world is right outside."

At the Yeshivas, students are taught to ask questions. Their only requirements are to participate in classes and observe the sabbath and dietary laws on campus. But there is pressure to conform in dress and other ways and some students leave after a few weeks.

More students come from the United States than Israel. A few have degrees from prestigious universities such as Harvard and Stanford. The Yeshiva environment is college-like.

A unique aspect is *hevruta*, meaning "study partner." Two students argue feverishly over the smallest details of Jewish law in an effort to reach an understanding.

Rabbi Kalman Packouz, executive director of Aish Hatorah College, says his Yeshiva aims to fight Jewish assimilation and intermarriage with gentiles.

"We're out to counteract it by giving people the opportunity for learning about their heritage. In short, you can't love what you don't know," he says.

Reuven Abedon, 26, a Harvard graduate from Rhode Island, once considered dropping his Judaism, even attending Christian meetings. He now learns at Jerusalem's Ohr Somayach Yeshiva.

"I had studied Chinese heritage, had been to France where I studied at the Sorbonne and I knew nothing about my own heritage," he says.

Vogt's team has found countless clay jugs, beakers, semi-precious stones, bone and shell rings and necklaces, delicately carved stone vessels, copper knives and spears.

Anthropologists have some preliminary conjectures about how the Shimali people lived. They probably dwelled in palm leaf huts and ate a miserable diet of snails and dates, with meat and fish.

There is no sign of agriculture other than date palms. Life expectancy was at most 35. Infant mortality was 30 per cent. Still, the settlement flourished for at least 1,000 years, favourably located at the mouth of the Gulf and the terminus of land routes from the Omani interior and the coast of what is now Abu Dhabi.

"Now we know there were quite substantial settlements in that period," he said.

The tombs of Shimali named after a present-day village nearby, are up to 30 metres long and contain an average of 60 skeletons each. Some are simple limestone rectangles whose gabled roofs were long ago torn off by robbers.

Others are oval-shaped, with double or triple chambers. A fourth type is small and circular. Most were above ground, unlike subterranean chambers found elsewhere in the Gulf.

The find fills a gap in historical knowledge about the peninsula, now shared by the UAE and Oman, which juts into the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"When we started excavating we knew almost nothing about the

Gulf tombs give up 4,000-year-old treasures

By Philip Shebadi
Reuters

RAS AL KHAIMAH, UAE — In the second millennium B.C., coastal dwellers of the Oman peninsula laid out their dead in stone edifices standing like giant coffins near the shores of the Gulf.

Four thousand years later, the tombs are being unearthed and opened to reveal jewellery and other treasures from a little known culture north of what is now the United Arab Emirates (UAE) city of Ras Al Khaimah.

Burkhard Vogt, leader of an archaeological team from West Germany's Göttingen University, picks up what looks like a dirty piece of chalk from a mound of sandy earth.

"This is a human bone," he says. "There could be a hundred bodies buried at this spot."

Since beginning their excavations last year, the team have found as many as 200 communal tombs in a three-square-km patch of semi-desert beneath limestone hills.

Amidst acacia trees, they have marked the outlines of a settlement from the same era that shows signs of contact with other cultures across the seas in Mesopotamia, the Indus valley and Bahrain.

The find fills a gap in historical knowledge about the peninsula, now shared by the UAE and Oman, which juts into the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"When we started excavating we knew almost nothing about the

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, N.A. AMMAN BRANCH

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. wishes to advise its customers that it intends to close its branch and cease its operations in Amman as of the close of business on April 3, 1986. Chase is pleased to announce, however, that it has reached an agreement with The Bank of Jordan Ltd., which is a banking institution known to us and whom we hold in esteem, to accept the transfer of your account(s) under the same terms and conditions currently in effect with Chase.

The Bank of Jordan Ltd. has advised Chase of their intention to continue to operate the business from Chase's present branch location at First Circle, Jebel Amman, and to employ substantially all of Chase's present staff so that your banking needs may continue to be served without disruption.

A letter further explaining this transfer has been sent to all customers at their most recent address on Chase's records. If you have not received that letter or if you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Perseverance of Milla pays off for Cameroun

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — A last-minute equaliser by Cameroun's French exile Roger Milla earned the titleholders a 1-1 draw with World Cup finalists Morocco in an African Nations' Cup Group B match Tuesday.

It looked all but lost for Cameroun when a header by Morocco's Merry Krimau sent them 0-1 down, against the run of the play, in the 75th minute.

But Milla, of French Second Division side St. Etienne, was on the outside edge of the box when he wickedly lobbed a pass over Morocco's goalkeeper Badou Zaki, who was way off his line.

By this time Morocco was playing without star defender Abdelmajid Lemris, sent off by Zambian referee Frank Valdemar for his part in a brawl off the ball.

Milla's goal, his second of the tournament, came 15 minutes after Krimau headed home a cross hoisted over by Swiss-based professional Abdelaziz Bouderbala on the left wing.

It was a just reward for Milla's relentless efforts throughout the match. He had looked poised to score earlier in the second half

when he headed just over the crossbar.

Again in the 63rd minute he would have had only Zaki to beat if Moroccan defender Mustapha Byaz, unable to match his speed, had not downed him with a tug on his shirt tails, a foul for which he received a yellow card.

Cameroun's draw Tuesday keeps them at the top of the Group B table with three points. Morocco and fellow Mexico finalists Algeria now have two points each and Zambia one.

Teams: Morocco — Badou Zaki, Khalifa Labd, Abdelmajid Lemris, Mustapha Byaz, Noureddine Bouyahiaoui, Abdelmajid Dolmy, Mustapha Haddoui (Lahcen Oudani, 70th), Merry Krimau, Abdelaziz Bouderbala, Abdelaziz Soleimane, Fadili Hamroui.

Cameroun — Thomas Nkono, Victor Ndiip Akem, Emmanuel Kunde, Ibrahim Aoudou, Isaac

Sinkot, Andre Kana Biyik, Emile Mbouh, Gregoire Mbida (Dagobert Dang, 81st), Louis Paul Mfede, Ernest Ebongue (Mamoudou Oummarou, 76th), Roger Milla.

Earlier, in the first match of the day, Zambia were held to a scoreless draw by World Cup finalists Algeria.

Zambia, who lost 2-3 to holders Cameroun last Saturday, were clearly the dominant side, but were denied their first goal of the tournament by a string of saves by Algerian goalkeeper Nacer Eddine Drid.

The result was the second scoreless draw for Algeria, who played Morocco in the first of their three round-robin matches.

Zambia's Michael Chabala, Derby Makinka and Kalusha Bwalya tore the Algerian defence to shreds and showered the embattled Drid with ferocious drives from outside the box.

Showing their superiority in ball-winning and control, they made the Algerians seem mere shadows of the team that captured soccer fans' imaginations in the 1982 World Cup finals and qualified for Mexico in style.

Brazil to test its youngsters today

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — A youngster named Muller wins his first cap in Wednesday's West Germany-Brazil soccer friendly — but by an ironic twist he will play for the Brazilians and not the home side.

Brazilian trainer Tele Santana has decided to blood three untried youngsters in his new-look side, the first major test of their preparations for the Mexico World Cup finals.

The most exciting prospect of the three is Muller, a 20-year-old free-scoring midfielder, born Luis Antonio Correia Da Costa but playing under a nickname borrowed from former West German striker Gerd "Bomber" Mueller. Santana has been forced to improvise by the absence of established stars Zico and Leandro.

who are injured, and Junior, Cerezo, Edinho and Dirceu, who have not been released by their European clubs.

So, along with Muller, in come left-back Dida, 20, and striker Sidney, 22, to make their debuts and lay claim to a place in Mexico.

Though past reputation has made Brazil the bookmakers' favourites for the World Cup title, Santana knows he needs new blood in an ageing team. Old hands like midfielders Socrates and Falcão, both 32, and Oscar, the 31-year-old sweeper, are still vital cogs in the Brazilian machine and will play Wednesday.

"It's too bad we will not have Zico and Leandro. On the other hand, this gives us a chance to see how the youngsters do under adverse conditions," Santana said.

The trainer, who returned to take over the team earlier this year, was against making such an early European tour, which includes just one other match, against Hungary on Sunday.

"We will not be able to play well on this European tour," he warned reporters on arrival Monday.

"We have a lot of work to do in the physical and technical fields."

West German manager Franz Beckenbauer is also handicapped by injuries to strikers Rudi Voller and Pierre Littbarski, as well as to sweeper Klaus Augenthaler.

But he was encouraged by a 2-1 away win against world champions Italy last month, ending a record, barren run of six games without a win, and is keen to boost his team's morale for Mexico by following up with victory against Brazil.

"For me, Brazil are one of the top favourites for the World Cup," he said. "We must fight as we did against Italy. If you let them play, you end up running round in circles."

Beckenbauer's main problem is finding someone to partner captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge up front with the choice between Heinz Grunzel and Frank Mill.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

U.S. football in Wembley Stadium?

LONDON (AP) — Talks are under way for an American football exhibition game to be played in 75,000-seat Wembley Stadium, more accustomed to soccer and rugby league than to the U.S. game. The most likely date, officials said Tuesday, is Aug. 3, the first full weekend of U.S. National Football League preseason games. A national newspaper, Today, said Monday that the Chicago Bears and the Dallas Cowboys were likely foes and that matchup would be very attractive in this nation where the American sport is rapidly making converts. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle came to Britain to help set up the game, the paper said. It gave no date for that visit.

Chinese set 5K, 10K walking records

PEKING (AP) — A Chinese walker has set a new world record for the women's 10-kilometre walk, clocking 45 minutes, 31.9 seconds over the distance, the official newspaper People's Daily reported Monday. Xu Yongjiu shaved more than seven seconds off the old record of 45:39.5 in a race Monday at the Chinese National Spring Walk tournament in Ji'an in southern Jiangxi Province, the paper said. Three other Chinese walkers went under the previous record, which had been held by Yan Hong, also of China, since May 1984, according to the report. Yan took second in the race, it said. Earlier in the three-day tournament, 15-year-old Wang Yan set a world record of 21:33.8 in the women's five-kilometre walk.

Dallas finally beats the Celtics

NEW YORK (AP) — There couldn't have been a more unlikely evening for the Dallas Mavericks to finally defeat the Boston Celtics after six years of trying. Dallas' high-scoring Mark Aguirre was out with the flu and Boston's Larry Bird tied the Reunion Arena record with 50 points. But the Mavericks clawed back from a 13-point deficit in the closing minutes to nick the Celtics 116-115 Monday night on a pair of Rolando Blackman free throws with eight seconds left.

In Germany, Davis Cup loss is attributed to Mexican fans

BONN (R) — Unruly Mexican spectators were being blamed here Tuesday for contributing to West Germany's Davis Cup tennis defeat in Mexico City Monday.

Mexico clinched a 3-2 first-round victory over last year's beaten finalists in the fifth set of the final match amid torrid crowd scenes witnessed by millions live on television.

The mass-circulation Bild newspaper's front-page headline read: "Mexico's Scandal — Tennis Stars Trembled for their Lives."

Bild quoted West Germany's Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and captain Wilhelm Bungert as saying they feared they would not have left the stadium alive if Michael Westphal had won the final singles against Mexican Leonardo Lavalle.

Lavalle came from two sets down to win 8-10, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in a match interrupted on Sunday by bad light. West German reporters complained they had to flee their press seats when the crowd began to attack them during the final match.

The players complained too that cushions and lumps of ice were thrown at them on court and that Westphal suffered a torrent of abuse over his long, blond hair.

Westphal, taunted by shouts of "Santa Lucia", a female saint, was quoted as saying he had never encountered so much animosity.

There was considerable criticism too for the behaviour of Mexican captain Raul Ramirez, who continually interrupted the match, waving a rule book at the American umpire.

Becker's coach Guenther Bosch accused Ramirez of deliberately whipping up the crowd to a frenzy "in a manner unworthy of a former world class player."

Niki Pilic, West Germany's coach, said the turning point of the match came when Westphal led 3-1 in the fourth set. An eight-minute break as police moved in to clear drunken, fighting fans allowed a dispirited Lavalle to recover, he said.

The players said they had difficulty with the heat and altitude as well as the crowd, though Becker won both his singles without problem, dropping just 14 games.

West Germany must now play Ecuador at home to avoid relegation to the European Zone. The tie is expected to be held in Dortmund from October 3 to 5.

France hopes for winning hand

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — Platini, Giresse, Tigana and Fernandez — four midfield aces who could give France a winning hand in the World Cup in Mexico.

This quartet of contrasting and complementary styles proved a near-matchless blend two years ago, embodying the qualities which brought France the European Championship, the first major team success in the nation's 80-year history.

Their talents overlap, but Michel Platini typifies the best of their inspiration and flair. Alain Giresse intelligence and darting ball skills, Jean Tigana tenacity and fierce drive, and Luis Fernandez rugged, tough-tackling determination.

Platini and Giresse are the attacking brains of the side, tirelessly supported by Tigana and Fernandez, the hard-running ball-winners and providers.

Platini has transformed many a game for France with his quicksilver strikes delivered often with nonchalance and always with aplomb.

When the magic is needed most, the Gallic Wizard "Platini" weaves his spell. He conjured up the two goals which gave France victory over Yugoslavia here last November and spirited them to the finals in Mexico. He had worked the same goal-scoring trick in similarly crucial games in the past which ensured their presence in Argentina in 1978 and Spain in 1982.

Platini, for many the greatest player in the world, has inspired France for a decade and his third World Cup final campaign in Mexico is almost sure to be the last.

He made his international debut against Czechoslovakia here in March 1976 in Michel Hidalgo's first match in charge and became the fulcrum of the imaginative team they created together.

Nearly every honour in football has come the way of a man whose professional career might have ended prematurely when he was turned down by Metz after a machine testing the strength of his

lungs reported a "very feeble respiratory capacity and cardiac insufficiency."

He won the French Cup with Nancy and the League with Saint Etienne but it was not until his lucrative transfer to Italian giants Juventus in 1982 that the big awards arrived — three times European Footballer of the Year, the European Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup as well as the Italian League and Cup.

Platini is France's record goalscorer — 39 in 63 appearances including nine in the 1984 European Championship when he scored in every match and notched two hat-tricks.

Platini is blessed with so many skills — "even his feet are intelligent," Hidalgo once said — that someone at the end of his superlatives came up with "Platinismo" to describe the range of the great man's virtuosity.

While Platini is an aristocratic elegance on the pitch, his pocket-sized partner Giresse could be mistaken for a truant from a schoolboy side.

But the 1.63-metre imp is, at 33, the team's oldest member. Giresse scampers through the lunging tackles of giant defenders and unleashes shots of surprising ferocity belying his lack of inches.

The home-loving Giresse is a model of loyalty to his local club Bordeaux, whom he led to successive league titles in 1984 and 1985 and with whom he will begin his 17th season on return from Mexico, having resisted all past lures from abroad.

"He is skill intelligence. He is a good little man who always makes football bigger," Hidalgo says.

He made his international debut in 1974 but made only a few appearances until injury to Platini gave him a break in a World Cup qualifier against The Netherlands in Rotterdam in 1981.

Platini returned, Giresse stayed and one of the most entertaining soccer double acts was born.

Jean Tigana, who came to France as a child with his parents from the Mali capital of Bamako, took a long time to establish himself and was nearly 25 when he first played for his country.

Like Giresse, he profited from

an injury to Platini, imposing himself in the opening second round win over Austria in the 1982 World Cup, which gave France new zest and launched them on the way to the semifinals.

His club career took him from Toulon to Lyons and coach Alain Jacquet, whom he followed to Bordeaux and two league triumphs. Italian, English and Swiss clubs would like to buy him but a \$1.45 million price tag showed two years ago how highly Bordeaux rates his fighting qualities.

At 1.68 metres Tigana is no giant, but his fearless tenacity has often been crucial for France.

In the European Championship semifinal against Portugal in Marseille, when France were trailing in extra-time and everyone else was willing, it was Tigana who kept driving on relentlessly and supplied the ball for Platini's winner. In the final he was perhaps the man of the match.

Fernandez is the only member of the quartet who has come into the team since the 1982 World Cup, and at 26 he is the youngest. The first time the four started a game together was on February 29, 1984, in a win over England in a friendly here.

Platini and Tigana, born two days apart, both celebrate their 31st birthdays during the Mexico finals. Giresse, persuaded by Platini to go on after the European triumph, will be 34 in September.

Fernandez, a hard, uncompromising and incisive tackler, has added a touch of steel to the talents on parade in midfield. He won his first cap against The Netherlands in November 1982 and has not missed a match since, making his 27th appearance against Northern Ireland last month.

Always a robust player, he has curbed a turbulent streak since assuming the captaincy at Paris Saint-Germain, the side he has led on a runaway charge towards the league title this season.

He confirmed his growing maturity, stamping his authority on the game, in an outstanding performance against Yugoslavia last November and his tireless spirit is likely to make him as influential as his illustrious partners in the exciting climate of Mexico.

Hagler KO's Mugabi, but shows signs he is weary of the game

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — Marvelous Marvin Hagler likes to say nothing pleases him more than a good fight. Against John "The Beast" Mugabi, he got that, and more.

Hagler, pushed hard by a determined Mugabi, battered the challenger through the late rounds Monday night before knocking him out at 1:29 of the 11th round to retain his undisputed middleweight title.

It was a crowd-pleasing performance by Hagler, who appeared to dominate much of the bout, but had trouble putting Mugabi away. And, at the eyes of the ringside judges, Mugabi was in the fight until the end.

trailing by three points on two cards and only one on the third. "It wasn't that close," insisted Hagler. "I thought I had full control of the whole fight."

The victory, coupled with Thomas Hearns' devastating first-round knockout of James Shuler an hour earlier, set up a planned Hagler-Hearns rematch. A prospect Hagler wasn't looking forward to after going 11 bruising rounds with Mugabi.

"I've given it a lot of thought... this may be my last fight," he said immediately after the bout.

But after getting some attention to a bruised right eye, a shower and a change of clothes, Hagler backed off a bit.

"I'm not committing myself to anything now," he said. "I just got through with a tough fight. Let me get home and put it together."

Promoter Bob Arum said he had few doubts Hagler would keep fighting, especially with more than \$10 million awaiting Hagler for a rematch of his third-round knockout of Hearns last April.

"Sometime in September we're looking for a Hagler-Hearns rematch," said Arum.

And Hearns, who has already signed for the rematch, said he couldn't wait.

"There's never a day, a time, a

minute throughout the day that I don't think about it," said Hearns, who needed, and got, an impressive win to keep his rematch hopes alive.

Hagler, fighting for the first time since his triumph over Hearns, started cautiously against the Ugandan, throwing jabs and staying away from the vaunted power of Mugabi.

Mugabi managed to land several shots to Hagler's head early, backing the champion up on several occasions. But Mugabi's punches were often wild and Hagler was able to get inside of them to land effectively.

With Hagler beginning to take control, the stage was set for a wild sixth round, a round that rivaled the almost non-stop first-round action in the Hagler-Hearns fight.

Hagler opened up midway through the sixth round, stinging Mugabi with flurries of punches to the head. At one point, Mugabi seemed ready to go down, but referee Mills Lane picked that time to separate the fighters and warn Hagler about punching low.

When action resumed, so did Hagler's relentless attack, except that Mugabi fought back and landed several hard shots of his own before the bell rang to end the round.

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UNIDO chief urges adjusting industrial plans

VIENNA (OPECNA) — Mr. Domingo Siazon, director general of the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) said here Monday that the "best use" of developing countries' scarce resources often lay in rehabilitating and rationalising existing industrial capacity, rather than building new one.

In an address to the Vienna Institute of Development, he pledged allocation of more UNIDO resources in future, both in funds and expertise, for the rehabilitation of existing industrial capacity in Third World countries.

He said UNIDO would also encourage the development of integrated projects to assist medium and small-scale industries, support agro-based enterprises and establish "appropriate linkages" between industry and agriculture.

Mr. Siazon called on other agencies in the U.N. system to assist developing countries in "marketing" their industrial output.

He said an awareness of market openings, skills and contacts was

of "crucial significance" to countries trying to export to "higher-income countries with a diverse pattern of demand."

The director general advised developing countries not to "blindly endorse an industrialisation policy that merely deploys the energy-intensive, polluting and labour-intensive industrial remnants from the North."

He said UNIDO did not claim to have a "universally valid" industrialisation plan and asked Third World planners to "adjust" their strategies to "suit prevailing conditions."

Mr. Siazon appealed to industrialised states to "bear in mind the impact their policies have on the industrial development of the South" and to "coordinate the approach to development assistance within both the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)."

He requested developing countries to "turn to the manifold

problems that exist within their own boundaries," identifying "the failure to mobilise fully the latent capacity of their small-scale producers" as the "single most important of these."

He also asked developing countries to "vigorously promote enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation in small and medium-scale industry sector among themselves."

He said they should take advantage of the new supplies of capital, technology and skills that had emerged in their ranks in the past decade.

Mr. Siazon said some developing countries were "unwilling or unable to adopt appropriate macro-economic adjustment policies."

He added that he was "not unaware of the painful adjustment process" that some countries had undergone in the early 1980s, but declared that "industrialisation has its price. It requires a readiness on the part of the industrialising society to forego short-term advantages in favour

of long-term gains."

The director general criticised developing countries for their inability to "introduce a dynamic and continuing process of positive, long-term structural change in their economies."

He said they had been "forced to become passive players in the global industrialisation process" and found themselves increasingly responding to external shocks with a series of "short-term, ad hoc and defensive adjustments that are often inconsistent with their long-term development objectives."

"Thus, for the majority of the countries in the South, the industrial revolution remains an elusive dream," he observed.

Mr. Siazon pledged UNIDO to the adoption of "an integrated, comprehensive, global and dynamic approach to development."

He called for cooperation between North and South and East and West. He reiterated his determination to make the organisation more "action-oriented with a clear country focus in its operations."

The UNIDO head declared that he intended to take advantage of the "clear constitutional mandate accorded to UNIDO" to "assist and cooperate with the private sector."

He said UNIDO had enjoyed "successful cooperation and contacts" at the enterprise level with Eastern European countries which had encouraged it to try and replicate the same relationship with Western and developing country enterprises.

Mr. Siazon said UNIDO would cooperate with chambers of commerce and industry and a "whole range of bodies" with which "we can enter into new forms of affiliation."

Mr. Siazon announced that he had recently discussed cooperation measures with three major companies in two "market-economy countries" and described their response as "encouraging."

He said a French company had agreed to finance a UNIDO technical assistance project in an African country, but gave no details.

M.E. states appear set for stand-off over oil crisis

BAHRAIN (R) — Middle East oil producers seem ready for a weekend showdown over the collapse in world crude prices which has badly hit their export revenues, industry analysts said Tuesday.

They said a row was shaping up between Gulf Arab exporters led by Saudi Arabia and hard-liners Iran, Algeria and Libya, when oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meet in extraordinary session in Geneva.

The hard-liners have blamed high output by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, and its neighbours for the crash which has halved crude prices to \$15 a barrel or less in a few months.

But the Gulf states, now pumping 7.5 million barrels a day (b/d) against about 5.5 million last summer, deny they are responsible, saying all producers inside and outside OPEC are to blame for the crisis.

The analysts said they could not predict if the arguments, which will pit the oil market muscle of the Gulf against the radical rhetoric of their opponents, would spill over publicly in Geneva or be kept behind closed doors.

They doubted, however, that even the right words from Geneva would prop up prices for more than a short time.

"There is so much doubt about whether oil producers can rein in production, even if OPEC says they will, that the only thing that can turn the market round now is for oil wells to be shut down," said one analyst.

"That won't happen until we reach single figures," another analyst said, referring to price per barrel.

The hard-liners want a return to a policy of limiting production, abandoned by OPEC ministers last December when they decided they had to secure an undefined "fair share of the oil market" for their 13 member states.

Criticism has been harsh. In a Beirut magazine interview last month, Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Qadhafi blamed the oil policy of Saudi Arabia and its allies for last month's Gulf war was in retaliation to this policy. I warn the Gulf states this war will expand... if all do not cut production to quotas permitted," he said.

But the Gulf group has given no signs of yielding to pressure or wavering in their support for the new OPEC policy. They say restraint in production is useless unless all producers inside and outside OPEC cooperate.

A number of non-OPEC producers, Mexico, Egypt, Malaysia, Brunei and Oman, have agreed to talk with OPEC next week following the ministerial meeting. But the North Sea producers, Britain and Norway, seem unlikely to attend.

The analysts said the old OPEC policy depended on Saudi Arabia absorbing weak oil demand by cutting its own output.

This pushed its output down last summer to a 20-year-low of two million b/d, a fifth of its peak in 1980.

Intense budget pressures on the Saudi government resulted, while there was also a growing internal perception that the sacrifices they considered the kingdom was making were perceived as political weakness elsewhere.

It was then that Saudi Arabia embarked on its successful campaign to raise output, selling its oil on a market-related basis which guaranteed profits for buyers and dealt a fatal blow to OPEC's policy of output restraint.

Saudi production has risen to more than four million b/d, although oil analysts say that is still within its old OPEC quota of 4.35 million.

Recent Saudi statements have described current oil prices as unacceptable.

But, in a surprise decision analysts said suggests they need the maximum flexibility in case of further price declines, the government Monday delayed for five months a new budget for the fiscal year starting Tuesday. It cited its inability to forecast accurately its own oil revenues.

Other Arab Gulf producers, notably the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, have boosted output and partly offset the impact on their revenues of a decline in prices.

Oil industry sources said Tuesday that production in the UAE had risen to a four-year high of 1.4 million b/d.

Kuwaiti investment firm startles British brokers

LONDON — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), one of the most secretive and unpredictable of London's major investing institutions, confirmed its ability to surprise even the most seasoned professionals with its recent purchase — and immediate sale — of a large stake in Exco International.

In the space of just 24 hours in mid-November the KIO bought 22 per cent in Exco, one of the leading London money brokers, and sold it on to a little-known Malaysian businessman, taking a near \$6 million (\$8.7 million) profit on the way.

The KIO, the main organisation for investing Kuwait's oil revenues overseas, showed once again that its size did not prevent it moving with surprising speed. With \$20 billion-\$30 billion under management, including \$6 billion in London, the KIO is one of the wealthiest fund managers in the world.

The KIO's devotion to secrecy and a widely-held belief that a large state-owned investment organisation has to be slow on its feet have caught out more than one company chairman or rival institution in the past few years.

The Exco deal surprised Exco, British and Commonwealth Shipping (B and C), which was the original owner of the shares, and Exco's brokers, De Zoete and Bevan, which had all assumed the KIO would be a long-term holder in the shares.

De Zoete was sacked by Exco for its miscalculation.

The Bank of England, too, was apparently displeased at the speedy onward sale of the shares to Mr. Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, a businessman whose operations had previously been centred on the Far East.

Mr. Tan Sri Khoo's subsequent build-up of a 27 per cent stake in Exco fuelled fears that the com-

pany was vulnerable to a hostile takeover bid and prompted merger talks with Morgan Grenfell, the British merchant bank.

Loyalty to shareholders

Mr. Fouad Jaffar, deputy chairman and chief executive of the KIO, had this to say about the Exco affair:

"We negotiated a fair price and bought in good faith. We gave no commitment, so if people make assumptions that is their fault. Anyone who has followed us has seen us buy and sell big holdings."

"When you have £123 million at risk and someone offers you an immediate return what do you do? To whom did we owe our loyalty, to Exco, B and C or our own shareholders?" he asked.

Apart from those involved in the Exco share shuffle there are others in the City of London who have been bruised by this no-nonsense approach.

"They have a reputation for being very arrogant, very pushy," commented one analyst. "They are prepared to ride rough-shod over people."

One technique which has not made the KIO popular is their coming in on the placing of a large line of shares with an offer 1/4 pence or 1/2 pence above the price the broker has negotiated with other institutions, provided the KIO gets the whole placing.

The broker is then faced with offending the institutions which have already agreed a price or explaining to his client why he did not accept the better KIO offer.

But equally, there are many in the City of London who welcome the KIO's ability to act fast and avoid the bureaucratic delays which can occur with other large institutions.

Hanson Trust, the acquisition-hungry conglomerate headed by Lord Hanson, had reason to thank

the KIO for its rapid response last July when a £519 million rights issue flopped.

The KIO emerged as Hanson's largest shareholder with a near eight per cent stake — since reduced to just over six per cent — after a late-night emergency share placing staged by Mr. N. M. Rothschild. The intervention of the KIO and several other institutions helped Hanson avoid the ignominy of half the new shares being left with the underwriters.

"They are tough but they are decisive"

"They are tough and they can be hard to deal with but they are decisive," said one broker. "If they say yes they mean it. They are the sort of chaps you want. You go there first. They are sharp and street-aware."

So who are the "chaps" at the KIO and how do they operate?

Set up in the 1950s to invest Kuwait's oil revenues, the KIO began with relatively modest holdings in U.K. treasury bills, gilts and equities. When the oil price quadrupled in the early 1970s its activities expanded fast until it was managing a worldwide portfolio of securities and direct investments.

The more recent drop in the oil price and Kuwait's economic difficulties have had an inevitable impact on the flow of funds. Some people in the City of London have detected a greater willingness on the part of the KIO to sell holdings and take a profit than previously was the case. The KIO nevertheless remains a major player on the international scene.

The 40-strong team of investment managers, analysts and traders handle about two thirds of Kuwait's actively-managed reserves of around \$40 billion. They handle all of Kuwait's worldwide investments out of St. Vedast House, an anonymous seven-storey office block facing across the bustling Chancery in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The KIO is a tightly-run self-contained unit which claims to make no use of outside advisers to carry out its worldwide dealings. It has specialised investment teams concentrating on specific areas such as North America or Europe.

The top two positions are held by Kuwaitis. Chairman of the KIO is Sheikh Fahd M. Al Sabah, a member of the Kuwait royal family. Mr. Jaffar, his deputy, is in charge of day-to-day operations. The investment teams include about 10 other Kuwait nationals.

At the next layer down the British, or rather Scottish, influence becomes apparent, with two Scottish-trained accountants, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. David Buchanan, in senior investment management positions.

Swift, secret dealings

The tight-knit nature of the London operation means decisions can be taken rapidly and investment policies can be adapted at short notice.

"They do have an amazingly high degree of discretion which you would not expect of an Arab investment entity," said one U.K. fund manager.

"They have the advantage of having a single shareholder or principal so they don't have to refer back to their trustees," commented another.

The KIO's stated aim is to carry out long-term investment to protect and increase capital value. But to avoid becoming an index fund, with investments which merely mirror the stock exchange indices or inflation, the KIO is prepared to take short-term risks and profits.

How successful have these policies been?

A recent official Kuwaiti survey of the relative performance of the KIO and the commercial banks which manage other Kuwait investments showed that the KIO matched or exceeded all but one or two of the smaller portfolios.

Some critics point out, though, that the KIO's move into direct U.K. property investment, which began with the purchase of St. Martin's Property Corporation in 1974, coincided with the start of an unexciting decade for the property market.

The KIO pursues a deliberately hands-off policy to its equity investments. It believes that too close an involvement in management decisions would make it privy to insider information and expose it to restrictions on its freedom to deal in the shares.

For this reason senior KIO officials avoid close contacts even with the companies in which they have a major stake. The distance that the KIO likes to keep from its investments adds to the deliberately cultivated aura of secrecy which surrounds its dealings.

The low profile serves two purposes.

The KIO is anxious to avoid criticism in the West that the Arabs are taking us over. Equally it does not want to inflame radical Arab opinion which is critical of oil money being invested in the capitalist economies, instead of closer to home.

It was censured last July by the Kuwait finance ministry for buying shares in Arthur Bell, the Scotch whisky distiller, because of the Arab ban on alcohol.

Apart from its sizeable U.K. equity holdings the KIO owns three British companies: St. Martin's Property Group; Hay's Group, which has interests ranging from chemical manufacture to insurance broking; and Autobar, a catering services company. These companies employ 5,000 people in the U.K.

Britain counted for 18 per cent of the KIO's investments, according to one recent estimate, with the U.S. taking 30 per cent, Japan 20 per cent and West Germany 15 per cent.

— Financial Times news feature.

'Looming cash crisis is expected to cause rifts in European Community'

BRUSSELS (R) — A looming cash crisis is expected to cause rifts in the European Community (EC), divided between exponents of strict financial stringency such as West Germany and so-called "big spenders" like Italy and Greece.

"Why don't we stop talking about the budget and discuss the Community's future?" one minister asked another at Monday's meeting of EC finance ministers.

"But the budget is our future," answered the other, who refused to be named when relating the story to underline the group's renewed preoccupation with its money problems, largely caused by its inability to reform its controversial farm subsidies system.

The money fears dominated talks at separate meeting here Monday of finance and foreign ministers who heard the EC's executive commission forecasting a sharp budget shortfall this year and mounting financial difficulties in coming years.

Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, whose country is now in charge of the EC's rotating presidency, described it as a shock report. He asked other ministers to refrain from approving new expenditure before first getting the go-ahead of the finance ministers who will meet again next

month.

Budget Commissioner Henning Christophersen said the burden of bridging the gap between the plummeting dollar price of world farm commodities and the higher EC price was largely unexpected. It could reach 1.5 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) this year.

But he told reporters that other additional costs of a similar scale were utterly predictable and resulted from the consistent failure of EC governments to provide the necessary cash for policies they themselves had adopted and to come to grips with the problems caused by the farm subsidies.

This point was underlined Monday in a report to ministers by the president of the EC's Court of Auditors, Mr. Marcel Mart who spoke of a chronic imbalance between revenue and expenditure, resulting in accumulated commitments of some 14 billion ECUs.

"We cannot keep pushing it under the carpet," Mr. Christophersen said, adding that members continued to advocate strict financial control while coming up with additional requests for cash.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, whose country is the largest net contributor

to the EC budget, put the blame squarely on the commission, accusing it of promoting costly programmes which the EC was in no position to finance.

He said that no money would be available for new spending before the EC resolves its farm programme difficulties.

Diplomats said West Germany and other states were fighting to maintain the farm price support system which swallows more than two thirds of the EC's income.

Last year Bonn blocked plans to cut guaranteed prices to farmers and Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle has said the government would oppose any cuts in farmers' incomes this year.

Britain has also benefited substantially from the subsidies and its agriculture minister, Mr. Michael Jopling, warned in parliament that he would oppose commission price freeze proposals which could hurt British farmers.

It was only in Jan. 1 that the EC raised from one to 1.4 per cent the ceiling on its share of the value added tax (VAT) levied in member states, its primary source of revenue, in a bid to avoid a new crisis.

But Mr. Ruding told ministers Monday the new ceiling would be breached in its first year if costs kept rising at current rates.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4512/19	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3990/97	Canadian dollars
	2.2728/38	West German marks
	2.5630/45	Dutch guilders
	1.9825/9900	Swiss francs
	46.50/55	Belgian francs
	6.9925/75	French francs
	1546/1547	Italian lire
	180.10/20	Japanese yen
	7.2720/2770	Swedish crowns
	7.1920/1970	Norwegian crowns
	8.4000/4050	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	341.90/342.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher as buyers returned after Monday's mixed trend. Dealers said the renewed advance reflected a firm government bond market and hopes of a near term cut in U.K. base rates.

Special situations, including bid speculation, helped share indices move to new highs. At 1535 GMT the FT 30 was 19.2 up at 1,324.8 and the FTSE 100 23.5 firm at 1,595.7 after an all time high of 1,596.1.

Government bonds showed net gains of as much as 7/8 point. Dealers said the provisional U.K. money supply figures for February turned out within market expectations.

Blue Circle rose 20p to 628, BTR added 7p to 460, while ICI was a penny up at 977.

In firmer stores, Woolworth ended 42p higher at 587 having touched 590 on bid speculation, dealers said. The company attributed the advance to pre-results interest and said it had received no bid approach. Other main gains in stores included Burton 16p higher at 282 and GUS 12p up at 889.

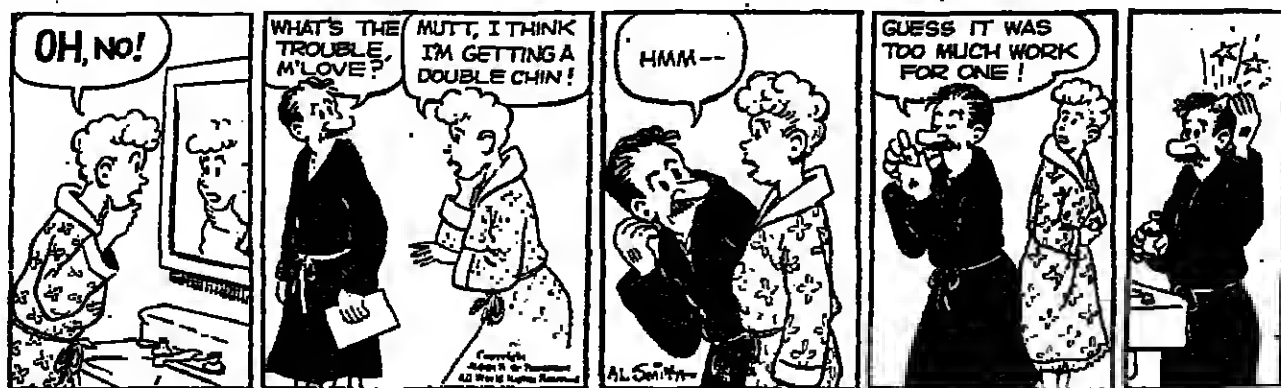
Cope Allman closed 60p up at 343 after the agreed 360p per share offer from Hawley group, 2p higher at 119. Coats Patons rose 13p to 274 after the bid from Vantona Viyella was declared unconditional. Vantona ended 20p up at 466.

Horoscope and crosswords not received

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEECA

TIFAH

CURPES

HATTUG

If you stop doing that, you'll get your bike!

WHAT'S THE BEST THING FOR NAIL-BITING?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LIMIT FLUID GENTRY TOWARD

Answer: What a person who calls a spade a spade is probably about to give someone a DIRTY "DIG"

سکتا میں اچھا

American delegation arrives to assess Philippines needs

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — A delegation of American officials arrived Tuesday for a weeklong visit to assess the new government's need for U.S. assistance, officials said.

The group, including officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and the Treasury, State and Defense Departments, is to hold talks with President Corason Aquino and other officials during the week.

The team's arrival was announced by officials at the U.S. embassy.

Earlier, an official said the Philippine government will send a team to Hawaii to inspect documents taken there by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos that may provide evidence of vast financial holdings in New York, New Jersey and elsewhere, an official said.

Jovito Salonga, chairman of the Good Government Commission, did not indicate when the Philippine team would leave. Mr. Salonga has estimated Marcos and his associates carted between \$5 billion and \$10 billion out of the

country during Marcos' 20 years in power.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino is set to abolish the present parliament and declare her two-week old administration a revolutionary government, senior administration sources said Tuesday.

The sources said Mrs. Aquino was likely to announce the moves Wednesday at the first meeting of her 21-member cabinet.

They said Mrs. Aquino had decided the declaration of a revolutionary government was the best way to get rid of ruling structures set up by deposed leader Ferdinand Marcos so the country could start with a clean slate.

She would abolish the Marcos-dominated National Assembly and abrogate the country's 1973 constitution, the sources said.

Mrs. Aquino's executive secretary Joker Arroyo told reporters several draft declarations had been prepared by different groups

of lawyers on ways to govern.

"They vary only in details but all present a common thrust — to dismantle the unjust structures left behind by Marcos," Arroyo said.

The move is certain to set off a furor among Marcos' political allies who have described the Aquino administration as a sophisticated dictatorship.

Leaders of Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL) have said the ex-president is still trying to play a part in Philippine politics by advising the party on how to act in telephone calls from exile in Hawaii.

Arturo Tolentino, Marcos' running-mate in the country's Feb. 7 presidential election who still claims to be the legally elected vice-president, has said: "Democracy is the antithesis of a revolutionary government."

Manila's business community has not shown signs of worry about the new country's being run.

American Chamber of Commerce President Fred Whiting said the revolutionary nature of government was causing no problems or concern among businessmen.

"The honeymoon is still on at this stage of the game. The government enjoys the confidence of the business community. There is a great deal of confidence that was sorely lacking (in the old government)," he said.

Whiting said: "We recognise the de facto situation that the government in power is the one that counts."

He added that an inflow of investment money appeared to have started.

Ramon Gonzalez of Ansco Hagedorn Securities said the stock market was recording unprecedented sales and there had been a flood of foreign inquiries.

Mariano Miranda of the Banque Nationale De Paris commented on Mrs. Aquino's rule: "She has the full trust of business. We know she is not going to abuse her powers. Based on how she has been running her government for the past two weeks, I think there are no grounds for apprehension."

"In fact, business will be appreciative of the fact that she can now initiate changes quickly,"

Opposition stages protest march in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Members of South Korea's main opposition party marched through the streets of Seoul Tuesday chanting anti-government slogans and demanding election reforms.

Eyewitnesses said about 1,000 marchers shouted "down with dictatorship" and "amend the constitution."

No clashes with police or arrests were reported.

The members of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) had earlier attended the opening ceremony of an office in the capital where the party plans to collect signatures for a petition demanding direct presidential elections instead of the present Electoral College system.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) accused the opposition of "deliberately trying to provoke confrontation and conflicts" by organising the rally.

Police briefly put Kim Dae-jung, a leading dissident and former presidential candidate, under house arrest to prevent him attending the ceremony. Kim is banned from political activity because of a suspended 20-year sentence for sedition.

Another prominent dissident, Kim Young-Sam, and NKDP President Yi Min-U led the protest march on a one-mile route from the office site to the party headquarters.

More than 500 riot police lined the streets but did not intervene, the witnesses said.

A five-member U.S. delegation observing the signature campaign was also present at the opening ceremony.

Delegation member Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, told Reuters: "The campaign is the beginning of a step towards democracy."

Witnesses said some bystanders clapped as the campaigners marched past.

Medical experts study remains of astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Forensic experts have begun the grim task of examining the remains of the astronauts of the doomed space shuttle Challenger, U.S. space agency sources said.

Although stormy seas continued to hamper efforts to recover the wreckage of the shuttle's crew cabin from the ocean floor, divers had brought back the remains of the astronauts, the sources said.

The space agency announced on Sunday that the crew compartment of the spacecraft had been found in 100 feet of water 25 miles off Cape Canaveral with remains of some of the seven astronauts inside.

Challenger erupted in a fireball on Jan. 28 just 75 seconds after lift-off when its right booster rocket apparently ruptured and ignited the shuttle's giant external tank.

Although space agency officials have refused to describe the condition of the crew compartment, a source close to the salvage operation reported that it appeared to be in pieces and that only "body parts" had been brought up by divers.

Churning seas and high winds prevented divers from working on the site Monday, and navy officials said the salvage vessel USS Preserver had been called back to port until conditions improved.

A space agency source said some of the remains of crew members were brought ashore last Saturday under cover of darkness along with debris from the shattered cabin.

The remains that were brought up before operations were halted were being examined by military forensic pathologists in a laboratory at Patrick Air Force Base near here.

Forensic experts said analysis of astronauts' body parts could help determine whether the crew was killed instantly in the explosion, poisoned by super-heated fumes, died when hitting the water or drowned after the crash.

Those killed in history's worst space disaster were New Hampshire schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, Commander Francis

Scobee, pilot Michael Smith and crew members Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald McNair and Gregory Jarvis.

For the families of the astronauts, the announcement of the grim discoveries sparked mixed emotions.

Bruce Jarvis, father of Gregory, was angry at the space agency's failure to notify him personally, but said he would be thankful to have the remains of his son for proper burial.

"I'd like to have some proof, some tangible proof that they were somewhere, that they didn't just disappear," he said.

Dr. Martin Resnik said his family had grieved deeply for the loss of his daughter — the second American woman to venture into space. "There's no reason to go through the same thing all over again," he said.

Carl McNair, the father of mission specialist Ronald McNair, said: "We are going to have to go through the same thing we did a month ago with the memorial services, only this time it will be a funeral."

Space agency spokesman Jim Mizell said the recovery of parts of the cabin could be a boon to the investigation if salvage teams can find crucial components of the spacecraft's data recorders and instrument panels.

One of the devices was designed to record the voices of the crew during ascent, he said.

"If any one of the machines survived the explosion, we could get some important data on what happened," Mizell said.

Experts said examination of the astronaut's remains along with cabin wreckage could also yield clues as to whether the shuttle could be redesigned to provide a greater chance of survival in future space accidents.

The space agency said that out of respect for the wishes of the astronauts' families it would release no further information on the recovery effort until the operation was completed and the remains identified.

Column 8

Britons drinking less tea

LONDON (R) — Britons are drinking fewer cups of tea, their national drink, according to a recent survey. Broker, Wilson Smith said tea consumption in 1985 averaged 160,000 tonnes, down from 177,000 tonnes in 1984. Britain imported 155,359 tonnes of tea in 1985, down 15.6 per cent on 1984, it added. Imports from India fell the most, dropping to 26,904 tonnes from 30,756 tonnes. Kenya recorded the largest increase in sales to Britain — 63,349 tonnes from 56,113 tonnes.

Huge dugong herd discovered in Gulf

JEDDAH (R) — A huge herd of up to 500 dugongs, secretive sea mammals previously thought endangered in the Gulf, has been sighted in a survey of the waterway, environmental officials said.

Meteorological and environmental protection administration officials said 300 to 500 of the mammals, reputed to have given rise to sailors' tales of mermaids, were spotted from helicopters east of Bahrain in two groups a kilometre apart. The find has excited biologists, who had feared the Gulf's dugong population was no longer viable. In early 1983, oil spilling from Iranian offshore wells damaged in the Iran-Iraq war killed dozens of the animals, also known as sea cows, and there were suggestions that the entire population then might have been wiped out. The officials say the numbers in the Gulf are significant for a creature, considered endangered in much of its habitat, shallow waters through the Indian Ocean and South-East Pacific. The herd, they said, represent a previously unknown population, rather than one recovering from disaster, since the slow-breeding animals would not have had chance to regenerate. The result of the 18-month Saudi-funded survey will be used to prepare a management plan for their conservation.

UAE plants half a million trees

ABU DHABI (R) — Boy scouts, students and municipal workers, planted half a million saplings across the United Arab Emirates Tuesday, the federation's seventh annual Tree Day, local newspapers reported. Secretary-General of Municipalities Jassim Mohammed Darwish was quoted as saying the event would enhance local awareness of the importance of trees in fighting pollution, desertification and high temperatures.

52 Filipino prisoners shun freedom

MANILA (R) — At least 52 of more than 400 political prisoners ordered released by President Corason Aquino want to stay in jail, the Philippine News Agency has said. "Rather than go home... these detainees prefer to stay inside their detention centres," the state-run news agency said. It quoted army Col. Marcelo Blando as saying "perhaps they find it safer here." But Blando said he could not let the prisoners stay at the army camp in Davao Del Norte province because the military could not afford to feed them. Mrs. Aquino last week ordered the release of political prisoners when she took power after the 20-year-old regime of Ferdinand Marcos collapsed on Feb. 25.

Halley's Comet 'is shrinking'

TOKYO (R) — Halley's Comet is shrinking by an estimated 50 tonnes a second as it swings around the sun, according to Japanese scientists. Professor Tomizo Ito at Japan's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, said the institute's space probe monitored a hydrogen cloud around the nucleus and collected data on material thrown off by it. The probe, dubbed Suisei (comet), made its closest pass at a distance of about 150,000 kilometres on Saturday night. Ito said, adding: "We have made observation completely as scheduled. We've been successful. The preliminary findings have showed that the comet appeared to be getting smaller, losing about 50 tonnes of water per second, at the time of the observation." Ito said. Dust particles from the comet, which have already damaged an instrument aboard the Soviet Vega-1 probe also hit Suisei twice. Though the probe's position was slightly altered, it was working without hitch, he added.

Colombian Liberals lead in poll results

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's Liberal Party leader Virgilio Barco has emerged as the favourite for presidential elections in May after his party retained its overall majority in the country, political analysts said.

Near complete results of Sunday's legislative elections showed the Liberal Party won an average 48 per cent of the vote against 37 per cent for the Conservatives led by Alvaro Gomez, an ex-minister and former ambassador to the United States.

A dissident liberal movement, widely expected to emerge as a

power-breaking third political force, surprisingly failed to do better than in the previous polls four years ago. It got less than seven per cent of the voting and commentators predicted its extinction.

The New Liberalism of Senator Luis Carlos Galan campaigned on a platform of ridding Colombia of what it charges is administrative corruption and patronage.

"These are not the major preoccupations of the people. They prefer to bear what candidates intend to do about inflation, unemployment and living conditions," an analyst said.

He predicted that Sen. Galan, 42, would have to seal an ideological pact with Barco, 64 — an idea Mr. Barco already suggested Monday — or face new defeats.

Analysts also stressed the relatively low score of the united left, the Patriotic Union grouping composed of Communists and guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), taking part in elections for the first time.

"The guerrillas tried to gain a wider political space but with less than two per cent of the votes, it's difficult to say they achieved that goal," one analyst said.

Moscow denies executing Yurchenko

BONN (Agencies) — The Soviet Embassy in Bonn denied Western news reports that Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko, who returned to Moscow late last year, had been executed.

The uncorroborated reports had said Yurchenko, who applied for asylum in the United States but later returned to the Soviet Union, had been sentenced to death and executed by firing squad.

A Soviet embassy spokesman told Reuters the reports were totally false.

Yurchenko is healthy, in good spirits and carrying out his normal work duties, the spokesman said.

U.S. authorities said Yurchenko was in charge of the KGB's North American spy network when he applied for asylum.

Yurchenko later charged he had been kidnapped in Italy and kept isolated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He returned to the Soviet Union apparently of his own free will last November.

A Soviet newspaper on Tuesday said Yurchenko plans to write a book about his experiences last year in the hands of the CIA.

In a brief commentary Tuesday in the Communist Party organ Pravda, writer Tomas Anatolev repeated Kremlin claims that the CIA bankrolls rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Nicaragua is not the only place where the CIA interferes, Pravda said, adding "it is enough to recall the outrageous arbitrariness of the American special services in its relations with the Soviet diplomat V.S. Yurchenko, who was humiliated for 93 days in CIA torture chambers."

Yurchenko detailed his experiences after his return, and "he has more to tell in his diaries, which he is preparing for publication," Pravda said.

The Soviet embassy in Washington issued a statement Monday declaring "Vitaly Yurchenko is alive, in good health and he works in Moscow."

National Public Radio reported last week that Yurchenko had been executed by firing squad and his family billed for the ammunition, in a broadcast citing unidentified U.S. government sources.

Pinochet renews emergency powers

SANTIAGO (R) — President Augusto Pinochet has renewed sweeping emergency powers to arrest and exile opponents without trial, and a leading opposition journalist said his son had been arrested and held by police without charge.

Edwin Harrington, a former editor of the hard-hitting magazine Cauce, said his 19-year-old son Rafael disappeared Sunday after a shopping trip. Friends of the family said he had been held in a Santiago prison before being returned home Sunday night.

His father, whose magazine specialised in investigative reporting of scandals linked to President Augusto Pinochet, had launched a public appeal for information, fearing a political abduction.

Under Harrington's editorship, Cauce exposed scandals involving Gen. Pinochet, his family and the government in general. The magazine was closed for eight months in 1984 and 1985.

Gen. Pinochet's controversial emergency powers, which make opponents liable to arrest for up to three weeks, banishment within Chile or exile abroad without charge, were renewed by a decree published in the official gazette Monday.

The decree extends for a further six months the "state of threat to internal peace" that allows the president to use the provisions of article 24 of the 1980 constitution.

nothing other than a bad break and fine defense that led to the unfortunate result. Therefore, he insists that he should be found not guilty."

"Ladies and gentlemen: The prosecution will prove that South is, indeed, guilty of malfeasance. Counsel for the defense has pleaded most eloquently, albeit misguidedly, for the dismissal of the charges. Indeed, had the defendant been playing duplicate bridge this case would never have come to court — the play was quite normal."

"At rubber bridge, however, defendant failed to take elementary precautions to guard against the existing distribution. He needs only three heart tricks and five diamonds to make his contract and, as the cards lie, he can collect them without letting East gain the lead."

"Since he does not need an extra heart trick, South should have won the first trick in dummy to lead a low diamond. When East follows with a low card, declarer must finesse the seven. Even if this loses to West, when declarer regains the lead he can cash the ace of diamonds and then get back to the board with a heart to cash four more diamonds for his contract. Note that there is no way the defenders can collect four spade tricks if West has to start the suit."

"The prosecution contends it has proved its case beyond reasonable doubt. We ask for the maximum penalty!"

Actor Ray Milland dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ray Milland, a star of more than 120 films best known for his Oscar-winning performance as a tormented drunk in the Lost Weekend, has died of cancer, hospital officials said. He was 79.

The Welsh-born Milland, a jaunty leading man and light comedian who later became a character actor, had fought a losing battle with the disease for the past few months, said officials at Torrance Memorial Hospital, on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

They would not give further details immediately, nor say how long Milland had been treated at the hospital.

Milland, who made the bulk of his films between 1930 and 1960 and was known for his easy-going film manner and ready smile, started Hollywood when he agreed to star in the Lost Weekend for director Billy Wilder.

His performance as a failed novelist driven to the verge of suicide by his addiction to drink during a three-day binge, won him an Oscar in 1945 for best actor.

The film was the first from Hollywood to treat alcoholism as a serious subject and was also the first so-called "message film" to win Oscars, including Academy Awards for best film, best director and best screenplay.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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TOO MANY TRICKS

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 4
 ♥ A Q 7 4
 ♦ K Q 8 4 2
 ♣ 7

WEST
 ♠ K J 7 6
 ♥ 10 8 5
 ♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4
 ♣ Q 10 5 4

EAST
 ♠ A 10 3
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ K J 6 5 3
 ♣ K 9 8 3

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury: The defendant, South, is accused of the most savage hutchery of the very game he was playing. No one has levied any charges against the auction — three — so trump is a perfectly normal contract."

"The defendant received the lead of the five of hearts, which he won in hand with the ten. He tried to run diamonds, but he could not do so without letting East gain the lead. That defender found the excellent shift to the two of spades, and his ace collected four tricks in the suit for a one-trick set."

"My client contends that it was

Spanish army await NATO referendum outcome in silence

MADRID (R) — Spain's armed forces are waiting in resigned silence for the result of the national referendum Wednesday which will determine whether Madrid retains a role in NATO.

While the raging membership debate has divided the nation, it has been impossible to prise any reaction from the military, the sector most affected by the vote.

This attitude clearly illustrates the immense changes that have taken place within the forces in the five years since trigger-happy officers stormed parliament in an abortive coup.

Spanish officers are strictly forbidden from speaking to the press on the NATO issue, but political analysts say the Socialist government's decision to fulfill an electoral pledge by calling a referendum has irritated the military establishment.

"The armed forces are unhappy that the referendum is taking place," Antonio Sanchez Gijon, a defence expert at the Institute of International Affairs, told Reuters.

"They believed the question of membership was settled and were adjusting to their new responsibilities as defenders of Western Europe's southern flank," he said.

More than 400 Spanish officers take part in a multitude of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) committees, keeping them in touch with the latest defence doctrines, policy and technology.

Although Spain is not integrated into NATO's command structure — a situation which bars Spanish officers from being subject to orders from foreign superiors — it often takes observer status at NATO manoeuvres.

According to Gijon, the military's willingness to assume its NATO role after decades of isolation and xenophobia cultivated by late Dictator Francisco Franco is an indication that it has rid itself of the general's spectre. "The old music hall image of a shambolic Spanish conscript army led by coup-happy officers is a thing of the past," he said.

The Socialists have also used NATO as a peg for long overdue reforms in military justice, organisation and manning.

The chiefs of staff have been brought under the government's direct control and Defence Minister Narcis Serra has enforced a strict ban on public statements by officers, sacking several generals for airing their right-wing views.

By shortening military service from 18 months to one year, Mr. Serra will have slimmed down the armed services by six per cent to 237,000 men this year.

In the army, where over-manning is most acute, the bloated officer corps will be cut from 40,000 to 35,000 by 1991 through a combination of generous early retirement incentives and lowering the retirement age of top brass from 66 to 64.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has made a final appeal to keep Spain in NATO as the campaign for a national referendum Wednesday on continued alliance

membership closed officially at midnight Monday.

"Our opening to the outside world is at stake... let us not compromise our common destiny with Europe," he said in a radio interview.

Concerned by public opinion surveys pointing to a government defeat, the Socialist leader also appeared earlier on television and addressed a rally of 8,000 supporters.

Rightist opposition leader Manuel Fraga repeated his call for pro-NATO conservatives to abstain, a tactic which has hurt the government's chances of getting a "yes" majority.

"Don't take part in this unnecessary referendum," Mr. Fraga said in his final television appearance in the campaign on behalf of his Popular Coalition (CP).

The last opinion polls issued before a ban on their publishing came into force last Thursday gave the anti-NATO alliance of pacifists, extreme leftists and Communists a lead of between four and

10 points.

What exactly will happen if the "no" wins remains unclear.

The poll is not legally binding, but Mr. Gonzalez has said he would abide by a such result and ask parliament — controlled by an overwhelming pro-NATO majority — to denounce the North Atlantic treaty.

While he has hinted that he might fight the next general election on a pro-NATO platform, he indicated in a weekend interview that another referendum would be needed to bring Spain back into the alliance.

Mr. Fraga has said he would not feel bound by a "no" vote.

Mr. Gonzalez, who opposed the alliance in the 1982 election, has said "withdrawal from NATO would compromise the economic and political prospects opened by Spain's entry into the European Community on Jan. 1."

"Europe needs Spain's solidarity, and I want Spain's solidarity with Europe," he told Monday night's rally.

Spain's entry into the European Community on Jan. 1.

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